

# LISA FITTERMAN

WRITER + JOURNALIST

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20 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A STAFF JOURNALIST AT NEWSPAPERS

16 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A FREELANCE JOURNALIST/AUTHOR

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## AWARDS

**2014: NATIONAL MAGAZINE**

**AWARDS GOLD MEDALIST**

In Politics and Public interest category for story about Montreal corruption, published May 2013 in *The Walrus*

**1989: NATIONAL NEWSPAPER AWARD**

For sports writing; stories about hockey players Chris Chelios and Wayne Gretzky, and the greatly mourned Montreal Expos

**1993: C. C. BLETHEN AWARD, SPONSORED BY SEATTLE TIMES**

Second place, for feature writing; story about the brain

## NEWSPAPER + MAGAZINE WRITING

**1999-current**

Stories and book reviews for publications such as *The Walrus*, *Readers Digest International*, *Chatelaine*, *Elle*, *More*, *Canadian Stroke Network*, *Canadian Lawyer*, *Today's Parent*, *Elm Street*, *EnRoute*, *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star*. Topics include: an examination of the corruption scandal in Montreal; the phenomenon of forced marriage in immigrant communities; racism against the Roma in Slovakia and France; Muslim unrest in France and Sweden; a look at surrogacy in India; the fallout from a high-profile Vancouver court case that revealed my old high school teacher to be a serial sexual abuser

**2001-2007: Weekly Columnist**

*The Gazette* (see below); columns picked up on a weekly basis across Canada

**2007: Managing Editor**

*Attitudes Magazine*, a one-time bilingual lifestyle publication for insulin-dependent people with diabetes

## EDUCATION

### MCGILL UNIVERSITY

#### MONTREAL QC

Bachelor of Arts (Honours  
Anthropology)  
Graduated *Magna Cum Laude*

Law school courses in criminal  
sentencing and money laundering

### CARLETON UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA ON

Master's in Journalism program

### CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, QC

Marketing course

### HARVARD/RADCLIFFE UNIVERSITIES, CAMBRIDGE MA

Courses towards Master's in  
creative writing, concentration in  
short story writing

## BOOK AUTHOR

### 2018: Ghost Writer

*Project Unthinkable: A Doctor's Gamble to Save Millions of Lives*, by Derek  
Each, Barlow Books

### 2017: Ghost Writer

*True North, the Canadian Songbook*, with singer Eleanor McCain, Retriever  
Records

### 2005: Author

*Super Kids — Ordinary Kids Who Do Extraordinary Things*, Hylas Publishing,  
New York

### 1996: Author

*Let's Get Moving!* — children's book about sports and creative movement

## TV + MOVIE EXPERIENCE

### 2008: Associate Producer

*Love Interrupted*, a CBC documentary broadcast February 14, 2009

### 2007: Research

CBC National News documentary on Kimveer Gill, the Dawson College  
shooter; tracked down and interviewed witnesses, police and killer's mother

### 2007: Research

Handel Productions (TV series proposals for Slice on women's boxing and  
rugby)

## NEWSPAPER EXPERIENCE

### THE GAZETTE

The Southam News/CanWest daily servicing the Greater Montreal area

### 2001-2007: Weekly columnist, Arts + Life section

Topics included why I don't feel pangs over not having children to the size  
of Renée Zellweger's breasts to Volvo's new concept car for women; column  
ran in multiple newspapers across Canada

### 2000-2003: Feature writer, reporter and assignment editor

Topics included the hidden defects in the houses and how baby boomers  
will pay any price to stay young

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**2006-2011:** Judge, sports and self-help categories, The National Magazine Awards

**2005-2008:** Spokesperson for the Quebec Heart and Stroke Foundation

**2004-2006:** Mentor, YWCA Single Mothers' Program, helping single moms to reintegrate into the work force

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in English and French;  
can read and converse in  
Hebrew

## INTERESTS

Sports: running, kayaking,  
paddle boarding and hiking

Reading: variety of magazines  
and newspapers, mystery novels  
and biographies

### 1995-1999: Legal Affairs Reporter

Specialized in major legal issues, both civil and criminal, and related court activities and trends; wrote about the UN War Crimes tribunal in Rwanda and the International Criminal Court, the Airbus/Brian Mulroney affair, biker Maurice 'mom' Boucher's first trial for murder and former federal judge Jean Bienvenue's fall from grace

### 1994-1995: Feature Writer

Covered electoral and referendum issues; also wrote stories about social trends

### 1992-1993: General Feature Writer, Vancouver Sun (seconded)

Topics included profiles of athletes such as hockey player Pavel Bure, the 1992 election and complex medical issues; also wrote for the entertainment section as an arts critic

### 1992-1993: General Feature Writer, Edmonton Journal (seconded)

Highlight was travelling with a group of truckers along an ice road cut across Lake Athabasca

### 1988-1992: Sports Writer

Covered baseball, hockey and the Barcelona Olympics. Stories included a look at how Wayne Gretzky's arrival in Los Angeles made turned Los Angelenos into hockey fans

## VANCOUVER SUN

### 1987-1989: Political Reporter, Vancouver BC

Covered both federal and provincial issues

### 1984-1987: Political Reporter, Victoria BC

Specialized in provincial issues

### 1983-1984: General Assignment Reporter, Vancouver BC

## NGO CONSULTANT

### 1999-2005: Consultant

Consultant to the United Nations, Canadian Networks of Centres of Excellence, Canadian Stroke Network, Canadian Stem Cell Research, Canadian Network for Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics, and Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation

### 1999-2005: Journalist

Lead Canadian journalist for an international report on government and corporate fraud for the Washington, D.C.-based organization, Global Integrity