

For Immediate Release
August 18, 2017



Planet in Focus to present 2017 Canadian Eco-Hero Award to Dr. Roberta Bondar

Known to Canadians for the remarkable career as an astronaut, PIF will also celebrate Bondar's contributions to Canadian education. She will be presented with the award at a special pre-Festival event.

The 18th Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival will take place October 19 to 22, 2017
Planetinfocus.org

TORONTO - The Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival (PIF) is very pleased to announce that tireless environmental advocate, renowned educator, celebrated landscape photographer, author, and the first neurosurgeon in space, Dr. Roberta Bondar is the recipient of the 2017 PIF Canadian Eco-Hero Award.

Bondar will be presented with the Award at a pre-festival launch event on October 17, where she will give an address, followed by a Q&A session. A selection of Bondar's acclaimed landscape photographs will be part of a special exhibition during PIF 2017. More details around this programming will be announced in early October, 2017.

The world's first neurologist in space, and Canada's first woman astronaut, Dr. Roberta Bondar is probably familiar to most Canadians thanks to these two exceptional accomplishments; however, one of her most lasting contributions to Canadians remains less known. In 2007, Dr. Bondar chaired a Working Group for the Ontario Ministry of Education calling for the development of an environmental education policy for Ontario schools. Her tireless efforts resulted in the Ministry adopting all 32 recommendations outlined in the report, drastically changing the way an entire generation views the environment, and ensuring future students would receive an environmental education at school.

A devoted environmental advocate, Dr. Bondar is also the co-founder of the Roberta Bondar Foundation, which seeks to transform the way individuals and community members think of the environment through the fusion of art and science. A true renaissance woman, Dr. Bondar is also an acclaimed photographer of the environment —with four best-selling photo essay books under her belt, and many photographic works in private, corporate and institutional collections in Canada, the U.S. and England.

Dr. Bondar joins activist and filmmaker Jonah Bryson, as a PIF Eco-Hero for 2017. Announced earlier this summer, Bryson will be presented with the inaugural Rob Stewart Youth Eco-Hero Award during the Festival.

PIF's complete 2017 lineup will be announced on September 18, 2017. Festival tickets will go on sale that same day. For more information, visit planetinfocus.org

About Planet in Focus

Planet in Focus is a charitable organization whose mission is to use film as a catalyst for change by raising awareness of critical environmental issues through a variety of media-based initiatives including; the Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival, the Green School Tours, Eco-Film Lab, the PIF Student Film Festival and year 'round screenings that showcase the best environmental films from Canada and around the world. PlanetinFocus.org

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The **Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival** is generously supported by
Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage,
Ontario Media Development Corporation,
the **province of Ontario, the Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation**
Telefilm Canada and the Toronto Arts Council.

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