



2023 *Billings Medal*

Nomination Guidelines

The Billings Medal, established by the Paleontology Division (PD) of the Geological Association of Canada, is awarded to an individual in recognition of an outstanding long-term contribution to any aspect of Canadian paleontology or by a Canadian to paleontology.

It is named in honour of Elkanah Billings, the first paleontologist hired by the Geological Survey of Canada.

The Billings Medal is awarded every three years. The next winner shall be recognized at the 2023 Canadian Paleontology Conference.

Paleontology is a broad profession that includes a diversity of fields, including university professors, museum professionals, preparators, consultants, government geologists, etc. The PD recognizes that 'excellence' may be defined differently for each field. Five 'Areas of Excellence' have been identified - Academic Contributions; Teaching and Mentoring; Service to the Paleontology Community; Field, Laboratory and Collections Contributions; and Public Outreach and Education. Nominators should demonstrate their nominee has demonstrated excellence in at least two of the areas. The Areas of Excellence are listed in the nomination package, and it is encouraged that nominators and references refer to them in their nomination letters.

The nominee does not have to be a PD member. However, at least one nominator per application must be an active PD member.

Unsuccessful nominations remain in the pool for one additional selection process and may be updated by the nominators as required.

Please see 'Nomination Checklist' on page 4 below for a list of required nomination materials.

To nominate someone for the 2023 Billings Medal, please e-mail completed nomination packages to gac.paleontology@gmail.com by **Friday, June 30th**. Include '*Billings Medal Nomination*' in the subject heading.

Billings Medal Areas of Excellence

Nominees must be demonstrated to display excellence in **at least two** of the following areas. Please provide specific details.

Academic Contributions

May include (but not limited to):

1. Publications (number and impact)
2. Providing significant advances in the understanding of a specific fossil taxon
3. Providing significant advances in the understanding of a time period and/or geological group
4. Developing/pioneering new technologies in the field of paleontology
5. Describing new species
6. Government/Industry reports written.

Teaching and Mentorship

May include (but not limited to):

1. Graduate and undergraduate student supervision
2. Serving on supervisory and/or examining committees
3. Student mentorship (supporting students they are not formally supervising)
4. Number of courses developed and/or taught (can including student comments and feedback)
5. Teaching awards
6. Serving as an advisor on paleontological/geological curriculums for schools

Service to the Paleontology Community

May include (but not limited to):

1. Being an active member of a paleontology/geology society
2. Sitting on editorial boards for paleontology and/or geology journals
3. Serving as a peer-reviewer for journals
4. Serving on the boards of paleontology and/or geological associations (professional or avocational)
5. Serving on local host committees for a paleontology/geology conference and/or editing the abstract volume
6. Leading paleontology-related field trips
7. Serving as a webmaster for a society website

Field, Laboratory and Collections Contributions

May include (but not limited to):

1. Leading and/or pioneering fieldwork in a specific locality, formation, or region
2. Building and/or curating a significant fossil/museum collection
3. Preparing a significant fossil/fossils or fossil collection
4. Developing new fossil preparation methods
5. Developing/pioneering new laboratory methods and technologies
6. Developing software (statistics programs, imaging software etc.) to advance the field of paleontology.
7. Planning, aiding and/or overseeing significant collections moves.

Public Outreach and Education

May include (but not limited to):

1. Developing public outreach programs for museums, universities, schools etc.
2. Developing paleontology-related volunteer programs (e.g., fossil preparation)
3. Providing interviews relevant to paleontology/geology on radio, television, documentary film
4. Publishing books/articles/materials on paleontology for a popular audience
5. Providing public lectures/talks on paleontology.
6. Leading paleontology relevant field trips for a popular audience
7. Aiding in the designation and/or protection of fossil sites
8. Taking part in paleontology/geology-related events at museums, sciences centres, schools etc.
9. Aiding in the development of policies to inform collection practices and/or protect significant fossil sites.

Billings Medal Nomination Checklist

Each nomination package should include:

- Completed Nominator and Nominee Information section (page 5)
- Signed declaration from the nominee that they are in good standing to receive the award (see Ethical Professional Conduct Declaration, page 5)
- A 300-word citation, suitable for publication and for reading at the time of the award.
- A Curriculum Vitae of the candidate
- A letter from the nominator(s) (maximum 3 pages) explaining the contributions the candidate has made to the Canadian Paleontology community. Please explain how the candidate has made contributions in two or more Areas of Excellence, as outlined on pages 2-3.
- Signatures and/or letters of support (not required, but encouraged) - see page 6

Billings Medal Nominee and Nominator Information

Name of nominee:

Address/Affiliation of nominee:

E-mail address of nominee:

Phone number of nominee:

Name of nominator(s)*:

Address/Affiliation of nominator(s):

E-mail address of corresponding nominator:

Phone number of corresponding nominator:

*If there is more than one nominator, please list them all here. We only require the contact details for the corresponding nominator.

*Please indicate which nominator(s) is a PD member.

Ethical Professional Conduct Declaration

As a daughter society of the Geological Association of Canada, the Palaeontological Division abides by the [GAC Code of Ethics](#). Any Palaeontological Division awardees are thusly expected to meet all expectations outlined in this code. *By submitting this application the nominee certifies that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with the GAC Code of Ethics.*

Has the nominee been the subject of a filed allegation, complaint, investigation, sanction or other legal, civil or institutional proceeding, or are you currently the subject of such proceedings, in which your professional conduct is at issue?

- Yes (*If yes, the nominee will be contacted for a professional discussion regarding the details of the complaint.*)
- No

Signature of Nominee _____

Date: _____

Billings Medal Signatures and/or Letters of Support

Signatures and/or letters of support are encouraged but are not required for the nomination. Should they be included in the nomination, please include the details below.

Name of supporter #1:
Address of supporter #1:
E-mail address of supporter #1:
Signature (Digital Signature permissible):
Letter of Support Included: Yes OR No

Name of supporter #2:
Address of supporter #2:
E-mail address of supporter #2:
Signature (Digital Signature permissible):
Letter of Support Included: Yes OR No

Name of supporter #3:
Address of supporter #3:
E-mail address of supporter #3:
Signature (Digital Signature permissible):
Letter of Support Included: Yes OR No

Please use the space below to add additional names, if necessary.
