Recommendations



1. Patrick Olsen: Editor in Chief, CARFAX

"John was a great teammate with a lot of initiative. He has an intellectually curious mind and isn't afraid to ask questions. He's cognizant of the need to observe deadlines, but he also manages to keep serving consumers at the forefront."

2. Brian Moore: Senior copywriter

"Working with John at CARFAX brought out the best in me. He is an excellent content manager that keeps things moving without sacrificing quality."

3. Carter MacLeod: Managing Editor, CARFAX

"It has been a pleasure to work with John. He is a diligent editor with an eye for detail. He turns projects around quickly and brings clarity to even the most verbose prose. He is also a fierce advocate for good user experience and pushes teams to do better."

4. Charlotte Head: Vice President, Global Product & Media Solutions at Stockhouse, HotCopper & The Market Herald

"John was highly regarded in his Web Editor role at The Market Herald. He demonstrates a high level of professionalism, organization, leadership, accountability, reliability, interpersonal skills and attention to detail. John takes pride in his work and would be an asset to any team."

5. Jenny Mantrova: People and Culture Manager at Stockhouse Publishing Ltd.

"John is an experienced and reliable digital communications professional. During the time I have known John, he has been a true team player. He has a proven track record of delivering high-quality products that prioritize attention to detail. His skills and experience will be an asset to any team."

6. Dave Jackson: Markets Reporter at The Market Herald Canada

"I have worked alongside John Ballem for quite some time now and can unequivocally say that he is one of the most conscientious, well-prepared, mindful, and tireless-working team leaders I have worked for in my 30+ years in the media and communications industries."

7. Stephen Andru: Client Services Team Lead at Stockhouse Publishing Ltd.

"John is a driven, client-focused writer/editor. His work is top-notch, effective and always delivered efficiently."

8. David Margolis: Client Account Manager at Stockhouse Publishing Ltd.

"John is thorough, diligent, curious, and determined to improve work processes and products to benefit both colleagues and clients. He sets a high bar and reaches it."

9. Azuka Onwuka: Writer, Editor, Strategist

“He is the heartbeat of the editorial team, ensuring that news reports are properly edited and formatted before being published online. Interestingly, no matter the volume of work, he gets the job done quickly while still paying attention to detail.”

10. Jon Gilbert: Studio Operator at The Market Herald

“John works with efficiency and will go above and beyond to ensure projects are delivered on time and to a high standard while maintaining a great attitude and patience when under pressure and working with newer team members.”

11. Caroline Egan: (She/Her): 2021 Langara College Graduate

“John is the first person I go to for my editing questions. He's able to cut down to the absolute focus of a story to make it clear for any reader. John is easy to approach, and I value his guidance at The Market Herald.”

12. Alex Jennings: (She/Her): Presenter at The Market Herald Canada

“John is exactly whom you want to be working with for an online platform like The Market Herald. It is efficient and reliable when it comes to turning around articles and brilliantly ruthless in cutting out the fat to get to the crux of a story. As a team member, he's also incredibly friendly and helpful: when I started at TMH, he took the time to explain how the online platform works and the workflows for getting a story up and recognized, which, in turn, helped me feel more confident in what I was doing.”

13. Jenna Quong: Client Account Manager at Stockhouse Publishing Ltd.

“John is professional, reliable and on top of his work. I can always count on him to get the job done.”

14. Jonny Kidney: Executive Producer at The Market Herald Canada

“I have known and worked with John for some time now, and I feel that he embraces and dives headfirst into new challenges without hesitation. He has a strong work ethic and adapts quickly to an ever-changing digital world. He is organized, communicative, and works very well with others. Best of all, he is patient and doesn’t let any hiccups or miscues affect his work or his steadily calm persona.”

15. Jocelyn Aspa: Content Writer at Stockhouse Publishing Ltd.

“John is great to work with. He is helpful, understanding and patient with new staff members. He is always willing to explain things in detail when needed and has been instrumental in onboarding processes.”

16. Julia Kennedy: Copywriter at Kin Communications

“It has been a pleasure working with John at The Market Herald. In my time with the team so far, John has been the go-to person for questions about writing and editing. He is an outstanding writer and editor with great initiative and would be an asset to any team.”

17. Trevor Abes: Markets Reporter at The Market Herald Canada

“John is a seasoned editor and a great communicator. It has been a delight to cover small-cap Canadian business news under his guidance."

18. Kerry Yarwood: Change Enablement Specialist at Coast Capital Savings

“Always impressed with John's efforts to stay informed about trends in corporate communication. John's published content reflected his ability to capture the essence of senior leadership messages easily. Appreciate his creative approach. Professional all the way.”

19. Basem Hanna: Business builder in real estate and cannabis · Founder of Almega Corp. and TerrAscend

“John is an excellent addition to any growing team. He goes the extra mile to ensure his clients are satisfied. I was particularly impressed by several initiatives he suggested and took the lead on. I would highly recommend John!”

20. Michelle Hacon: Associate Director at Robert Half, Marketing & Creative

“John has been partnered with us for the past couple of months, helping our clients with ongoing copywriting projects. He has a rapid turnaround on requests, he's very communicative, and the feedback we've received from our clients about his work and the experience of working with John has been fantastic. This has been, and I hope will continue to be, a great partnership.”

21. David Jones: General Manager at Western Principles

“John has years of experience helping companies deliver great communication to their employees and customers. He's a hard worker and someone you can rely on to help your communications needs.”

22. Lindsey De Civita (Burgess): Marketing Consultant

“John is an outstanding writer who takes initial direction and runs with it. He has excellent initiatives and thought-starters - which at a small company is something we need! He always listens to our feedback and implements it promptly. Working with John is a pleasure for all of us here at Almega.”

23. Melanie McLeod: Administration- Account Management

“John was always willing to learn something new; he came on accepting a short-term contract and knew he had big shoes to fill. He worked very hard and welcomed the option to work from home when the option arose. He was very open to feedback and easily fit into our office group!”

24. Otino Corsano: Instructor at OCAD University

“John consistently created original content promptly throughout the six-week InDesign course I designed and delivered online. His enthusiasm for good design is evident in the portfolio of work he produced. John showcased a strong desire to continually improve his unique content to arrive at refined and sophisticated print and digital media solutions.”

25. Kate Hughes: Communications Professional

“John and I worked on the Sales Communication team at RBC Insurance. John proved to be a hard-working team player and brought good ideas to the table from a communications standpoint. His messages to the Group insurance channel were clear and got the message across the first time.”

26. Christine (MacDonald) Coakley: Senior Product Manager at Munich Re Canada, New Ventures

“I have had the opportunity to work with John on many projects, and he is fantastic, accurate, efficient, and responsive.”

27. Richard Smith: Manager, Sales Initiatives and Delivery

“I've had the opportunity to work with John over the last year. I've found him to be prompt and efficient in his services. He took on communications for a department that was not his area of expertise and knew when to ask questions and gather details. I've enjoyed working with John, and I wish him all the best.”

28. Michelle Warren: Professor - Presentation Communications

“John was a student in my Business Communications course at Sheridan College in 2017. He was a responsible and diligent student who focused on learning the course material and improving his communication techniques. John applied the course material by participating in class activities and helping students understand the lessons.”

29. Margaret Young: Founder, Age Knowble

“John offers advice and support proactively. I had the pleasure of working with John on a couple of projects. His professionalism and quality work are valued and appreciated.”

30. Peter Riccio: Lead, HR Strategy & Solutions Designer

“John always has clients and his audience front & center in any of his initiatives. A strong collaborator with a keen ability to stay current with evolving events with a positive, genuine perspective. It has been a pleasure to work with him.”

31. Angela Hanson: Positions within RBC

“Have worked with John over the past couple of years, and he has been a key partner. He is very efficient and quick to turn items around, especially when they have been a priority.”

32. Deb Renversez: RBC Retired

“I had the pleasure to work with John as a partner and quickly came to rely on his creative, efficient, and reliable execution. He is inquisitive and takes responsibility for delivering on time and correctly. A real pleasure to work with!”

33. Sara Son Hing: Top 100 Most Powerful Women Canada 2021 | Financial Services

“John is a fantastic person to work with. He consistently delivers high-quality work with a quick turnaround time.”

34. Randy Tredenick: Regional Vice President, RBC Royal Bank

"John is a professional communicator, accountable to results and values contributing to the enterprise, clients, and staff."

35. Sherry Munslow: Senior Delivery UX/UI Manager, Digital Workplace Solutions, Technology, Royal Bank of Canada

"John and I have worked on many projects together over the last two years. John brings a wealth of experience to the table, focusing on the big picture and the detail. And we know the devil is in the detail. I find John's perspective refreshing. He brings realism to the project, collaborating well with all partners on the project team. John maintains a strong focus on the client experience from a technical and usability perspective. John would be a strong collaborative asset on any team."

36. Ann Noakes: Retired - Business Risk Oversight Controls - National Office

"John is a pleasure to collaborate with, very focused on supporting organized procedures and ensuring accuracy is achieved. Detail-oriented with excellent partnering skills."

37. Jennifer Andres: Senior Manager, Regional Banking, Communications at RBC Royal Bank

"In the time I've worked with John Ballem, I greatly respect the expertise he brings to his job. We've worked on several projects together, and his knowledge of intranets and content management systems is truly impressive. John is a dedicated and down-to-earth team player who is always willing to go the extra mile."

38. Roy M. Medway: Management at RBC

"I have known and worked with John and have always found him dependable, efficient, and always going the extra mile. In fact, I have never worked with a person who gives as much attention to detail as he does. Also, his willingness to take on difficult communication projects with very tight timelines and see them to successful completion has repeatedly impressed me."

39. Karen Afalla, CHRP: Senior Human Resources Manager

"John is a pleasure to work with. He is dedicated to his job and is always great at helping me with any projects (especially the last-minute requests)."

40. Marcel A J Cote: Client Services Manager / Trusted IT Practitioner /Innovative Solutions / Client Focused

"John always came to project meetings with solid ideas in the company's best interest."

41. Heath Applebaum: Global-award-winning communicator, consultant, university professor, trainer, career coach, Board Director, hockey dad

"I had the opportunity to hire and manage John as an integral part of my award-winning Corporate Communications team at CF in September 2009. John reported to me for nearly 1 1/2 years and proved to be the key contributor to supporting the execution of our ambitious online communications strategy. John's enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to delivering outstanding service to clients were critical to our successful launch and ongoing content management for the company's first-ever corporate portal. I would highly recommend John and look forward to seeing his career evolve in the years to come."

42. David Hyde: Trusted Advisor to the Global Cannabis Industry

"I have worked alongside John Ballem for several months and have been impressed by his knowledge and professionalism. I have observed his enthusiastic approach to various work projects and have appreciated his input into work-related initiatives outside of his direct sphere of responsibility. John is a team player and a valued member of the Cadillac Fairview team. I wish him continued success in this and future roles."

43. Jim Lysick: IT Consultant

"John is a good team player. He provides valuable input during meetings and is respectful to other team members. He has contributed good ideas during the development of the organization's portal."

44. Carmen Goss: Mostly Retired HR Consultant

"John is a brilliant communicator and able to manage the challenges of designing both content and contextual applications in a dynamic and ever-changing business environment. John works well with various business units while maintaining a big-picture view of meeting organizational objectives. John is detailed and organized while being personal and a great team player!"

45. David Park: Manager, Personal Banking

"John has a flair for taking a concept and developing it into a reality. He can consistently deliver completed tasks within timeframes and has the experience and flexibility to adjust to changing needs on the fly. John clearly understands the needs of his clients/customers and guides them appropriately when needed.

His communication skills and experience make John a strong asset to any team he collaborates with."

46. Leanne Yanitski: Director, HR Operations, People and Culture

"John performs with consistent accuracy and is meticulous with detail; he follows various approaches in activities and techniques and excels in creative thinking and problem-solving. John optimizes the use of all available resources and combines technical competence with dependability."