

Saskatoon Police Service*Honour - Spirit - Vision*

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Indigenous Relations Consultant



The Saskatoon Police Service's Indigenous Relations Consultant plays a key role in the Cultural Resource Unit. They help build partnerships and maintain positive relationships with external Indigenous organizations, community groups, outside police agencies and government departments. Through these relationships, the consultant gathers public input on Indigenous issues and initiatives relating to police.

The Consultant is responsible for helping to organize the **Chief's Advisory Committee** and its seasonal meetings. They are tasked with hosting the meetings and recruiting new and diverse Elders appropriately.

They have created a comprehensive training program for new recruits and are tasked with delivering this Indigenous based education to all new members of the SPS.

By the direction of the Chief's Advisory Committee, the Consultant also offers educational opportunities for all SPS staff (sworn and civilian members) to gain a greater knowledge on Indigenous culture, traditions and practices. Ex: sweat lodges, pipe ceremonies and powwows.

The Police Service is also represented by the Consultant at various conferences, meetings and public events.

The Indigenous Relations Consultant ensures the Saskatoon Police Service is meeting the Calls to Action relating to Justice within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Exhibit: *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*

Location/Phase: Part 2 Regina

Witness: Clive Weighill

Submitted by: Ashley Smith

Add'l info: P02 P02 P0301

Date: JUN 27 2018

Initials

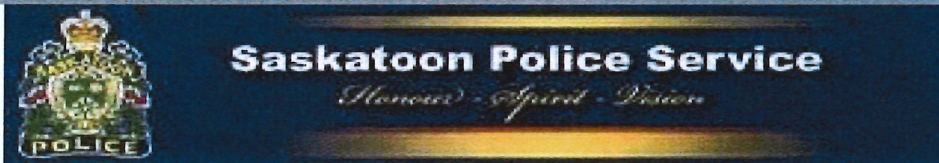
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Elder's Teachings

Introduction to Indigenous Spirituality

By Walter and Maria Linklater and Ron Thompson

The Saskatoon Police Service is proud to host a series of educational workshops.

⇒ **Friday, September 16, 2016 (11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.)**

Creation Story and Wheel of Life teachings (Walter Linklater)

⇒ **Wednesday, October 19, 2016 (11:30 a.m.— 1:30 p.m.)**

Women's Teachings (Maria Linklater) (Men and Women can attend)

⇒ **Wednesday, November 16, 2016 (11:30 a.m.— 1:30 p.m.)**

Sacred Medicines (Ron Thompson)

⇒ **Wednesday, December 14, 2016 (11:30 a.m.— 1:30 p.m.)**

Ceremonies & Protocol (Walter Linklater)



Attend one or all of the sessions.

Register early as there is limited seating.

Lunch will be provided. **THERE IS NO FEE TO ATTEND.**

The Teachings will be held in the

Culture Room at Saskatoon Police Service

76-25th Street East, Saskatoon, SK

PLEASE RSVP TO JANICE LINKLATER (975-2278)

Email: janice.linklater@police.saskatoon.sk.ca



**SASKATCHEWAN'S
TOP EMPLOYERS**



Saskatoon Police Service

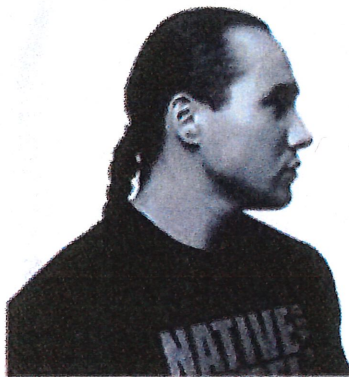
Honour - Spirit - Vision

Boys with Braids

Guest Speaker: Michael Linklater

Friday, June 9, 2017, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

The Saskatoon Police Service is proud to host a lunch and learn session featuring Michael Linklater and his presentation about: "Boys with Braids".



"I wear a braid to honour my ancestors and my culture," says Michael Linklater, the founder of the Boys with Braids campaign.

He recalls being teased and bullied by classmates during his early years of schooling. After seeing his own sons being bullied in school for wearing braids, he decided to start a campaign called Boys With Braids.

"There is so many boys out there who have grown their hair, and have cut it, because they have been teased," said Linklater.

He wanted to bring awareness and create an understanding of the cultural significance of why indigenous boys and men wear a braid.

- CBC News, February 26, 2106

REGISTER EARLY as there is limited seating.

A light snack will be provided. **THERE IS NO FEE TO ATTEND.**

The session will be held in the

CULTURE ROOM at Saskatoon Police Service

76-25th Street East, Saskatoon, SK

PLEASE RSVP TO JANICE LINKLATER (975-2278)

Email: janice.linklater@police.saskatoon.sk.ca



**SASKATCHEWAN'S
TOP EMPLOYERS**

Elder teaches important lessons to P.A. Police

By Taylor MacPherson

June 16, 2017 - 8:00am



Police Chief Troy Cooper and Prince Albert Police Service Elder Julie Pitzel, June 15.

📷 Taylor MacPherson/paNOW Staff

Policing a community as culturally diverse as Prince Albert carries significant challenges, but when the police in Prince Albert need help or advice they have a unique advantage – Julie Pitzel.

Pitzel, a life-long educator and Indigenous peoples' advocate, has been the Prince Albert Police Service's on-staff Elder since 2014. She helps the police understand First Nations traditions and protocols through training, advises Chief Troy Cooper on culturally-sensitive issues and events, attends meetings with victims of crime to ensure they are conducted respectfully and sometimes even acts as an interpreter when Cree, Dene or Michif translation is required.

No stranger to First Nations advocacy, Pitzel has spent her entire life fighting for the rights of Canada's Indigenous peoples. Born in northern Saskatchewan and raised on a trap line, Pitzel said her grandfather told her to never forget where she came from, a lesson she took to heart. After earning her degree in education Pitzel spent years working with various boards and committees helping pass legislation on domestic violence and ensuring treaty rights for women. She once travelled to Rome along with other members of the Métis Nation to advocate for traditional land rights, and was granted an audience in the private chambers of Pope John Paul II.

"My belief is that everybody deserves to have a safe place to grow up," she said, "and that every woman and child deserves to have a good place to live."

Pitzel said she first entered the world of policing as Prince Albert's first Aboriginal Resource Officer, a role she held for 11 years. After her retirement she transitioned quickly into her volunteer role as the department's first-ever Elder. Now Pitzel's role includes everything from formal training sessions with new officers to simply calling up Cooper to chat about a recent issue.

One thing that sets Cooper and the Prince Albert Police apart from other agencies is their willingness to listen, learn and improve, Pitzel said. While the relationship between police and Indigenous peoples is not perfect, she said it has improved in recent years largely due to the willingness of Prince Albert Police to grow culturally.

"You have to have willing people," she said. "The Chief is willing to learn and participate."

Pitzel said she and Cooper once attended a training session that included a quiz on Indigenous history, and Cooper aced the test while others clearly struggled.

"I was so proud of my Chief," she said with a laugh.

For Cooper, employing an Elder is a crucial part of the police service's ongoing work towards improving the historically-troubled relationship between police and Indigenous peoples.

"If you are policing an Indigenous community, you need to understand what that means. You need to understand the people that you're policing so that you can represent them," Cooper said. "Otherwise, you're not part of that community."

Cooper said he first met Pitzel years ago when he was a student in her conversational Cree class at SIAST (now Saskatchewan Polytechnic). Pitzel has always been an invaluable teacher to him throughout his career, Cooper said, and to the police service as a whole.

"There's always cultural information that Julie can provide," Cooper said. "I'm not aware of another agency that has someone like her."



Indigenous and Metis

On Friday, May 5, 2017, a monument to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was officially unveiled on the plaza area in front of the building. The monument was made possible through a collaboration with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, the Province of Saskatchewan, the City of Saskatoon and the SPS.

"The Saskatoon Police Service is honoured to be the home for the monument to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls," said Police Chief Clive Weighill. "It is our hope that the monument represents not only a place of reflection and peace, but also represents the strong partnerships our Service has with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, the families of victims of violence, the province of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon."



SPS Medicine Wheel



Monument at SPS HQ

Created by artist Lionel Peyachew, the life-sized bronze sculpture depicts a woman named Wicanhpi Duta Win or Red Star Woman, a fancy dancer with her shawl as her wings. The sculpture was chosen in 2015 following a vote on several different submissions. The project is funded by the STC, the Province of Saskatchewan and the SPS.

"The Saskatoon Tribal Council has been working with the Saskatoon Police Service, the City of Saskatoon and the Province since 2015 to acknowledge the tremendous importance of focusing on our murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls," said Tribal Chief Felix Thomas. "This monument exemplifies the serious impact even one Indigenous murdered or missing woman or girl has on our community, not just our First Nations, but everyone the city, the province the country this is a problem that affects us all."

Tribal Chief Felix Thomas makes a presentation to Chief of Police Clive Weighill at the Grand Opening Ceremony of the new Saskatoon Police Headquarters on July 16, 2014.



SPS HQ Grand Opening Ceremony



U of S Graduation Powwow

The Grand Entry at the U of S Graduation Powwow held May 29, 2013 in The Bowl on campus which celebrated the graduating Aboriginal students from the U of S and high schools across the province.

The Saskatoon Police Service held its first annual Thank You Feast on September 23, 2010 at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge. The feast was planned in an effort to thank local Elders, Chiefs and many partner agencies for their assistance in working with the Saskatoon Police Service. The event began with a traditional pipe ceremony and the feast was served by members of the SPS.



SPS Thank You Feast