



**The 2011 Representative's Award of Excellence: Mentoring
Constable Richard Lavallee
Vancouver Police Department**

Rick Lavallee is currently the Aboriginal Liaison office responsible for approximately 12,000 urban Aboriginal people. He is assigned to the Diversity and Aboriginal Policing Section of the Vancouver Police Department.

Originally from Manitoba Rick, who is Metis, takes great pride in his work with urban Aboriginal youth. He is a role model for these youth, many of whom have never been exposed to positive, healthy influences. Rick provides positive teachings focusing on healthy choices while maintaining the youths' unique cultural teachings and protocols.

An example of Rick's innovation and creativity was when he was able to secure the donation of three large cedar trees from the Vancouver Parks Board after a major wind storm had toppled them. After transporting the trees, Rick enlisted Aboriginal master carvers to teach youth about Aboriginal protocols for carving large cedar canoes.

He is a key figure on the Broadway Youth Resource Centre's Breakfast Club that provides nutritious meals to youth who might not otherwise have access to healthy food choices. While they are preparing breakfast, he takes the opportunity to speak to them about any issues they may be having while providing assistance in avoiding negative behaviours.

Rick is also involved in five Pulling Together canoe journeys, a long standing program where the police and Aboriginal communities paddle traditional canoes in a journey that is designed to bring them closer together.

Rick spends countless hours of his own time working with youth in other innovative programs, mentoring them and supporting them in any way that he can. He is available to them at all hours and has devoted his work and his life to changing the direction of youth towards positive and healthy choices and preventing the cycle of negative behaviour.

My name is Genoa Point and I am 21 years old. I've known Rick for about four years and he has been there for me through an important part of my life where I've really grown a lot. He inspires me to continue to challenge myself and be a good leader for others. He leads by positive example showing others to be involved in the community and to make positive lifestyle choices and to take good care of themselves and others. Having Rick's support and mentorship has helped me decide that I would like to help others as well. I really look up to Rick and I am so thankful he has been in my life to help me through such a meaningful part of it where having a good role model was so important. Rick's Youth Nominator.