

Winners of the Tom Longboat 2018 National Awards Announced

September 26, 2018

The Aboriginal Sport Circle is pleased to announce the 2018 winners of the prestigious Tom Longboat Award. **Michael Linklater (SK)** is named the male Aboriginal athlete of year and **Jocelyne Larocque (MB)** named female Aboriginal athlete of year. The Tom Longboat award was established in 1951 to recognize Aboriginal athletes for their outstanding contributions to sport in Canada. The Awards provide a forum for acknowledging the growth and strength of the Aboriginal sport movement in Canada and its' tremendous impact on sport development from community level participation to elite level competition.

Michael Linklater is from Thunderchild First Nation located in Treaty 6 Territory. Michael is an Internationally ranked 3X3 Basketball player, who is currently the number one ranked player in Canada and 38th in the world. "Michael has been inspirational for many of our young athletes across the province. His dedication and passion for the game is unquestionable, only unmatched by his ability to give back to the communities he visits." described Tod Johnson, Executive Director, Basketball Saskatchewan Inc. "We have seen him continually inspire future athletes and youth to pursue their dreams. Michael possesses strong leadership skills and is a fantastic role model in the Indigenous community. His teaching ability and knowledge of what it takes to succeed is inspirational for anyone who has met Michael."

Jocelyne Larocque is a proud Metis, who has been a part of Hockey Canada's National Women's Programs since 2006. She has represented Canada numerous times, including the 2014 and 2018 Winter Olympic Games, winning gold and silver respectively. "Jocelyne is a quiet leader amongst her teammates, always leading by example and never taking any shortcuts." described Gina Kingsbury, Director, National Teams, Hockey Canada. "She is passionate about our game and demonstrates that not only through her play on the ice, but also through her actions off the ice. She is a great ambassador for our game and our program. She is an excellent role model for the next generation of athletes aspiring to one day get the opportunity to play for their country."

The two national recipients will be recognized as award winners at Canada's Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on October 18, 2018 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

" We had a stellar group of 38 athletes nominated for this competition. Jocelyne and Michael fully exemplify the aspiration of the Tom Longboat Award, which is to recognize and celebrate individuals who equally dedicate their efforts to outstanding performance in sport and to inspiring and improving the lives of those around them."

Dr. Victoria Paraschak , Member, Tom Longboat Award Working Group

"The Aboriginal Sport Circle are very grateful for their partnership with Canada's Sports Hall of Fame and their support of our 2018 award winners" commented Heather Kaulbach, Executive Director, Aboriginal Sport Circle.

For additional information on the Aboriginal Sport Circle, the national voice in sport, fitness, culture and recreation pursuits for the Aboriginal peoples in Canada please refer to www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca.

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