

## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 30, 2009**

### **LAVALLEE LEADS THE PACK**

A Saskatchewan coach is being honoured with a national coaching award. Jacqueline Lavallee is the female recipient of the 2008 National Aboriginal Coaching Award, presented by the Aboriginal Sports Circle in Winnipeg on May 7, 2009. The award honours the accomplishments of coaches of Aboriginal ancestry. Winners demonstrate excellence in sport through their coaching achievements and their commitment to community development through leadership and mentorship.

“I’m very honoured to be able to accept this award,” Lavallee says. “To me it’s such a natural thing to give back and to get Aboriginal women involved in sport. When you see the rewards, it’s so worthwhile. I don’t see it as work.”

Lavallee has been involved in coaching basketball for 13 years at the community, provincial, varsity and national levels. She’s the current assistant coach of the University of Saskatchewan Huskie Women’s Basketball team – a position she’s held for the past six years. She was an assistant coach with the 2008 Development Women’s National Team. Her resume includes top awards such as Canada West All-Star, CIS All-Canadian and her 2008 induction into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame.

Lavallee is firmly committed to improving her community and the lives of her students at Oskayak high school in Saskatoon where she teaches. She’s the head coach for the Aboriginal Girls Basketball team through the Hoops and Dreams program at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge and has developed a health and wellness program at Oskayak.

The Aboriginal Coaches and Officials Program would like to congratulate Lavallee on all of her outstanding achievements. To find out more about how you can become involved in your community as a coach or an official, please visit: <http://www.saskcoach.ca/aboutACOP.php>.

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