



City of Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham

Keynote Speaker

Scott Gillingham was elected as Winnipeg's 44th mayor in October 2022 with a mandate to improve city services, invest in infrastructure projects that enhance economic development, and tackle the city's social challenges like homelessness and crime.

Scott was first elected to Winnipeg City Council in 2014 and was re-elected to represent the St. James ward in 2018.

He served for five-and-a-half years as Finance Committee Chair and has also been the chair of the Winnipeg Police Board, Council Liaison for Labour Relations, and Council Liaison for Veteran & Military Affairs.

Scott was born in Brandon, Manitoba, and raised on a mixed farm near Carman.

He holds a Diploma in Theology from Horizon College and Seminary in Saskatoon and has done graduate studies for a Master's in Theology at Canadian Mennonite University.

Prior to serving on the city council, Scott was a pastor for more than twenty years, most recently at Grace Community Church in Headingly. He and his wife Marla have been married for more than 25 years and live in Silver Heights. Together, they have raised two adult children, daughter Hannah and son Andrew.



Winnipeg Chief of Police (ret.) Devon Clunis

Chaplaincy at 911

Devon Clunis was born in Jamaica and immigrated to Winnipeg in 1975 at age 11. As a young immigrant, Devon was painfully aware of the deep social inequity faced by many groups in Winnipeg.

He joined the Winnipeg Police Service in 1987 to impact social change. He rose through the ranks to be appointed Winnipeg's 17th Chief of Police, and Canada's first Black Chief of Police, on November 2nd, 2012.

Since retiring in July 2016, Devon and his wife Pearlene launched Clunis Consulting Group Inc. and co-authored the children's book, *The Little Boy from Jamaica: A Canadian History Story*. Devon is the recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-religious Understanding in 2017 and serves on the following: Board of Directors: • Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice • Canadian Police Knowledge Network • Bear Clan Patrol Devon continues to work to advance leadership in policing and community safety across North America and in late 2020, Devon was named as the first Inspector General of Policing in the province of Ontario.



Rev. Charles Swartwood

Unlocking Spirituality in a Practical Way

Charles Swartwood has been a Police Chaplain in Stratford Ontario since 2015. This was his first experience and the first occasion for the Stratford Police Service to have its own chaplain. His involvement with SPS has included drive-alongs, regular visits to headquarters, hospital visits, death notifications, and participation in annual Inservice training exercises.

Charles has been a Senior Pastor with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada since 1974. He has served in several Ontario churches, including Brantford (2 ½ yr), Parry Sound (7 ½ yr.), Welland (4 ½ yr.), and Stratford (34 yr.). He has been involved in taking short-term missions' teams to Russia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Jamaica. He has also been a Board Director with Teen Challenge Canada, Huron Perth Centre for Youth, and currently with Family Services Perth Huron and Stratford Council & Area Council of Churches. In 2016 he went into semi-retirement, giving himself more time to devote to Police Chaplaincy.

He along with four other passionate police chaplains formed the multi-faith Police Chaplain's Association of Ontario, now known as the Canadian Police Chaplain Association Region Ontario, whose main function is to support CPCA Police Chaplains throughout Ontario.

He is a pastor at heart and will always be. His pastoral leadership and experience are what he brings to the CPCA-ON. He sees the Canadian Police Chaplain Association-On as his congregation and is committed to supporting, serving, and promoting Police Chaplaincy throughout our Province and Nation.

Charles has been married to Grace, whom he affectionately calls "Amazing Grace" for 49 years. They have 2 Grown children & four grandchildren two in Ontario and two in the United Kingdom.

One other goal Charles has recently accomplished is to become a certified "Cycle-fit" instructor with Stratford's YMCA. He now instructs three spin classes weekly.



Dr. Paul Ellis

Crisis and Resilience

Dr. Ellis has been an Ordained Minister since 1979 serving churches in both Canada and the United States. He graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1996 from Northwest Graduate School. With a passion and calling for chaplaincy, he has been involved in providing compassionate care to law enforcement and fire personnel and their families throughout his years of pastoral ministry. In 2011, Paul retired from his pastoral ministry and now serves in a volunteer capacity wearing several different hats. One of his greatest joys is serving as Chaplain for local Police Departments, providing compassionate care, and the ministry of presence to the Law Enforcement community and their families, and the citizens they serve who find themselves in critical situations. Paul has been a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) since 2002, earning his Diplomate Chaplain certification. He currently serves as the Vice President of the International Conference of Police Chaplains. Paul is passionate about chaplains receiving the appropriate training to be effectively equipped to serve in this unique area of Law Enforcement chaplaincy. Over the past number of years, Paul has taught classes at the Chaplain's Academy at the Criminal Justice Training Center in Burien, WA, at the ICPC Regional and National Training Seminars, as well as Chaplain's Basic ICPC Academy classes in the Phoenix, AZ area. As a certified instructor in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), he enjoys teaching the principles of CISM to Law Enforcement personnel, chaplains, and those individuals preparing themselves for Critical Incident Response, as well as Disaster Response. Paul responds as Disaster Spiritual Care to disasters/critical incidents such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and major shooting incidents, around the nation. Paul has been married to his wife Marsha since 1976; together they have served as partners in compassionate care and chaplaincy ministry. They are passionately committed to their volunteer work with Summit Chaplaincy/Northwest Chaplaincy and have a clear vision of the future growth of chaplaincy in the state of Arizona.



Miriam Mollering, Ph.D

Indigenous Education

Miriam Mollering has a diverse professional background including sexual abuse recovery counselor, family therapist, pastoral care, humanitarian manager, and small business owner. She has doctorate degrees in Psychological Counselling and Theological Studies which bring an academic, practical, and spiritual approach to her work as a Chaplain. As a professional counselor, she has served hundreds of clients helping them recover from past trauma, and navigate relational conflict, grief and loss, and other life issues. She also served in a pastoral role in Florida and Calgary. She has specialized training in areas such as Level II EMDR, R2MR, Emotional

Survival for Law Enforcement, Psychological First Aid, Acute Stress and Trauma Care, Field Traumatology, and Suicide Awareness, and is a Certified Human Behavior Consultant and Trainer, and certified Family Mediator. She is also trained in Critical Incident Stress Management and Debriefing.

Miriam is married to the love of her life, Friedhelm, who supports her in the work to which she has been called. She presently serves as the Lead Chaplain (volunteer) for Calgary Police Services in Calgary, Alberta. She is an avid sports fan. My favorite food is dark chocolate! And yes, she considers chocolate as breakfast food.

Her motto is to lead in such a way that others will want to follow her lead. She is committed to respecting all people and treating humanity with dignity, believing the best about people, taking time to listen and hear their stories, and helping people walk in freedom and wholeness



Phil Sovdi

Resilience and Recovery

Phil Sovdi loves to see growth and maturity in all facets of people's lives. He is passionate about encouraging and equipping people to be fruitful in their abilities and relationships with God and each other and reaches out under the banner of "because you matter."

Phil served as Secretary for the Fort McMurray Ministerial for several years while he pastored as an associate and maintained his full-time driving job as a Motorcoach Operator. His ministry has included Pastoring, Police Chaplaincy, Speaking, Writing, and his past 5-plus months as the Secretary-Treasurer for the CPCA. He has written two books and has developed a website for people's spiritual growth and health.

Phil has been a volunteer chaplain in Fort McMurray's large RCMP detachment since 2008 and has found it replete with opportunities to engage and connect with members. Whether it's through 6:00 A.M. weekend briefing attendance, ride-a-longs, good old 'find a corner' conversations, lunches, coffee chats, motorcycle rides, or phone calls with ODS members; Phil is always connecting and supporting in the name of member care.

Phil, his wife Linda of 42 years, and their 5 adult children all display a passion for caring for people in their respective First Responder and Support Roles. Linda leads the way working in Victim Service/Grief and Loss, and among their children are two RCMP officers; an Advanced Care Paramedic/Firefighter, an EMT/Firefighter, and one to hold it all together, a Clinical Counselor.

When he's not working, volunteering, or spending time with Family, Phil enjoys a good motorcycle ride, a good fishing trip, or a good book.



Chaplain Curtis Hinds,

One of the best definitions that I have heard for 'Spirituality' goes something like this...

'The vital breath that comes from deep within you

As the Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services and Spiritual Supports, I have the unique and much-needed role of supporting all of our members in all aspects of their lives. Many of our members would prefer to identify as 'Spiritual' rather than 'religious'. This allows for support, and guidance that connects with the heart of our members. My availability crosses many areas of our organization.

From 'Ride-Alongs & Divisional Visits', to supporting our members and their loved ones in times of difficulty and stress, and being there to just 'talk' about life.

I consider myself to have a very simple and genuine style of connecting with people of all different cultures, religions, and ethnicities. I like to see my role among other things as one who...' Loiters with Intent'. My intent is simply to be there for our members.

Quote – "Always remember that your Attitude' will always determine your Altitude".



Human Trafficking is for Real

David Pollendine

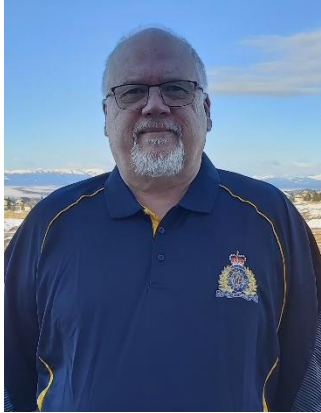
National Director for Development Growth

David Pollendine is IJM,'s National Director of Development Growth. Born and raised in the UK, he came to Canada with his family and started working for IJM in 2017 focusing on an ambitious vision by 2030, to rescue millions, protect half a billion, and prove that justice for people in poverty is unstoppable.

David is a trained teacher, and actor and cuts his teeth as a fundraiser working for Christian Aid and St. John Ambulance in the UK. During the 90s David spent 10 years in the Czech Republic working with students after the velvet revolution which ended communism in the former Czechoslovakia to help pioneer and establish a National Student Christian Union (UKH).

David has a BSC Hons in Sports Science from St Mary's College, University of Surrey, and a Masters in Applied Drama from Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Before coming to Canada, David ran his own theatre company writing and directing plays for schools and using drama as a vehicle for transformation in youth clubs, libraries, museums, and youth offender centers. Over the years he has partnered with several NGOs running arts and development projects in communities across Europe, Africa, and Asia. David lives in Winnipeg and is married to Irfana and has two children, Zara (16) and Zane (13), and a faithful dog called Biscuit.



Chaplain Experiences

Hillar Alkok

Hillar is a seasoned police chaplain with over 20 years of experience in the field. He recently made the move to Alberta, where he is now serving as Chaplain for the RCMP in Cochrane. He previously served as a Chaplain with the Toronto Police Service beginning in 2002.

In addition to his work as a police chaplain, he pastored a church in Toronto for 14 years and spent 2 years as a missionary in Estonia with his wife and 3 children. He currently serves as the Registrar for the CPCA.

Throughout his career, he's had the privilege of ministering overseas in Africa, UK, and Germany. He also facilitated Ethics Training for the police in Estonia with his connections in London's Metropolitan Police and 2019, had the opportunity to travel to Ukraine as part of a team that introduced police chaplaincy to military chaplains, clergy, and police.

He is a natural storyteller, and with 20 years of experience in police chaplaincy, has more than a few stories to tell. His passion for chaplaincy stems from his desire to serve those who serve their communities, and he takes pride in providing support, guidance, and care to police officers and their families in times of need.



Keys to building a chaplaincy program.

George Madden

George is currently the Chaplain Coordinator for K Division RCMP which has chaplains serving in over 90 communities across Alberta. The program has become the most diverse group of chaplains in the nation with Sikh, Muslim, Catholic, Veteran, Military, Indigenous, Elders, Metis Elders, and men and women representing over 20 different Christian faith backgrounds.

He was recently appointed as the National Lead chaplain for the RCMP and has a strong desire to build a team of chaplains that will see the RCMP chaplaincy service flourish across Canada, providing emotional and spiritual support for all employees and their families.