Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter from the Advancing Women in Engineering and Technology project.

We will be publishing a newsletter quarterly to share information about the project, to highlight activities and resources, and to shine the spotlight on those leading the way.

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In 2019, the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, Engineers and Geoscientists BC, and The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies BC launched the Advancing Women in Engineering and Technology Project—a two year initiative aimed at increasing the participation of women in the Engineering, Geoscience, Technology, and Technician occupations.

Did you know...

There is an alarmingly low average of newly registered female engineers and technologists in BC.
The average for newly registered female engineers in Canada is currently 18.1%. As of Dec. 31, 2018, BC ranked as having the second lowest participation rate in the country with 15.3% of newly registered engineers being female. It’s a similar story for technologists, where women make up only 13% of registered technologists.

There is a projected shortage of Engineers, Geoscientists, Technologists, and Technicians in BC.
The Labour Market Outlook: 2018 Edition states that “Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services has been a fast-growing industry and this trend will continue into the next decade”. The BC Major Project Inventory lists construction projects in BC valued at $15 million or greater as requiring an expanding workforce of qualified engineers and applied science technologists and technicians. The Engineers, Geoscientists, Technologists, and Technicians Labour Market Information 2015 report outlines a critical skills shortages in 31 out of 45 technical occupations. The report found looming market supply challenges with more than 31,000 job openings needing to be filled by 2024, and nearly 11,500 new jobs in 31 key occupations will be created.

The Advancing Women in Engineering and Technology Project is a two year pilot project that aims to address these challenges, and support an increase in the participation of women in the Engineering, Geoscience, Technology, and Technician occupations. The project will work toward the implementation of diversity and inclusion strategies to recruit, retain, and support career development for women in these professions. A key part of the strategy is the recruitment of champions to guide, inform, and support the work of the project team, and ensure that programs are responsive to the needs across the province, and reflective of their region. The overall goal for the project is to support a system level cultural shift towards increased female representation within the applied science and engineering sector.

REGIONS WHERE THE PROJECT IS OPERATING

Year 1:
Vancouver Island/Coast
Mainland/Southwest
Thompson-Okanagan
Kootenay

Year 2:
Mainland/Southwest
Cariboo
Northeast
North Coast & Nechako
Since the project launched in the spring of 2019, the project team has been busy shaking hands and speaking with people from across the province. We’ve participated or delivered workshops, attended conferences, and participated in other industry related events in order to promote the Advancing Women in Engineering and Technology project. In total we have engaged in 31 events to date (as of December 31, 2019).

In 2020, you can expect to see events to inspire and engage. We will be hosting province-wide webinars, creating networking opportunities, and working with high school students to share the love of the applied sciences and engineering. Have an idea for an event, activity, or resource? Share it with us!

TO SEE WHAT ELSE WE’VE BEEN UP TO, AND TO FIND OUT WHAT’S COMING, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
Champions are individuals, employers, secondary schools, and post-secondary schools committed to advancing women in engineering, applied science and technology. As volunteers, they will take action to promote associated events and projects within their region.

As a champion, you will receive information about the project activities and events. Regional events and activities range from educational workshops to networking events and other exciting opportunities. You will also be connected with a community of like minded individuals and organizations that are aligned in their interest to advance women in the engineering and technology sectors in BC.

BE A CHAMPION

Please consider joining us as a champion!

The statistics shown here are current to December 31, 2019.
OTHER RESOURCES

There is so much great work being done across the province to promote diversity and inclusion in the Applied Sciences and Engineering sectors. Here are a few groups to check out!

*Hint: subscribe to their newsletters to stay up to date*

**Westcoast Women in Engineering, Science and Technology (WWEST)**

WWEST is the operating name for the 2015-2020 NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (CWSE), BC and Yukon Region. Their mission is to engage industry, the community and students to increase the awareness and participation of women and other under-represented groups in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields of study and careers. WWEST works regionally and, in conjunction with the other CWSE Chairs, nationally on policy, research, advocacy, facilitation, and pilot programs that support women in science and engineering.

**The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST)**

SCWIST was founded in 1981 as a not-for-profit association aimed at encouraging women into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). SCWIST aims to support and promote the education of girls and women through programs and activities in partnership with the community. SCWIST has spectacular record of boosting the numbers, retention and status of women in the workplace by facilitating networking, mentoring and advocating woman-friendly policies. SCWIST also highlights opportunities, achievements and positive messages for and about women in the field through raising public awareness and guiding policy implementation.

Know of other work, publications, or agencies doing work in this area? Please share with us.

**CONTACT US**
Have something you’d like to share in an upcoming newsletter or on our social media pages? You are welcome to leave a comment using our contact form or connect with us on our social media platforms.