



BULLETIN

BC Construction Association

Volume 8 Issue 03

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Tradeswomen: A Winning Ticket April 20 – 21, 2007

Recently, several approaches have been taken toward resolving the current critical trades shortage, including changes to the apprenticeship system and importing foreign workers. But a huge local workforce – women – continues to go virtually unaddressed. This lack was addressed with huge success during WWII for example, when 1500 women worked in skilled and semi-skilled jobs at Vancouver Burrard Dry Dock alone.

Today, women are currently less than three per cent of the BC trades workforce. Statistics indicate that women are registering for entry level trades training and even begin trades training, but soon drop out. Why? Several events have been held to encourage young women to consider a trade, but virtually nothing has been done to address the needs of women already in trades – retention. **Tradeswomen: A Winning Ticket** has been organized for April 20-21 to specifically address this issue by bringing together all those interested in encouraging the participation of women already in the trades.

The event will be hosted by the Woodward Chair in Women's Studies at SFU and BCIT in partnership with the BC Construction Association and Women in Leadership Foundation.

The conference consists of an invitation – only Friday afternoon roundtable and focus group of construction employers and women in trades, discussing separately and then together key barriers to hiring and integrating women in the workforce. The information

collected from this group will assist in a year-long study currently underway by the Women in Leadership Foundation on the state of women in the construction industry. Friday evening will be open to the general public with a reception followed by a panel of tradeswomen sharing stories about their experience in training and in the workplace. A recent research report will present a current picture of where we stand in regard to numbers of women in trades and trades training. Saturday's workshops will be open primarily to registered conference participants.

It is an important part of the conference's success that employers – particularly outside the Lower Mainland - identify tradeswomen in their employment who would benefit from a conference focused on finding creative strategies to support and encourage women on the worksite. Some travel subsidies are available but employers are encouraged to release women from work on Friday, April 20 and if possible, cover travel and conference expenses for the two day event. If travel assistance is required please contact one of the individuals noted below. More information on the conference event including a full list of conference sponsors is available on-line at: www.sfu.ca/tradeswomen

Conference Details

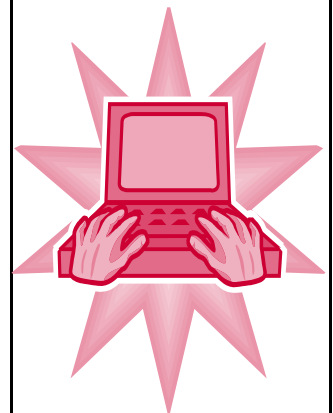
When: Friday, April 20 (3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) and Saturday, April 21 (9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.).

Inside this issue:

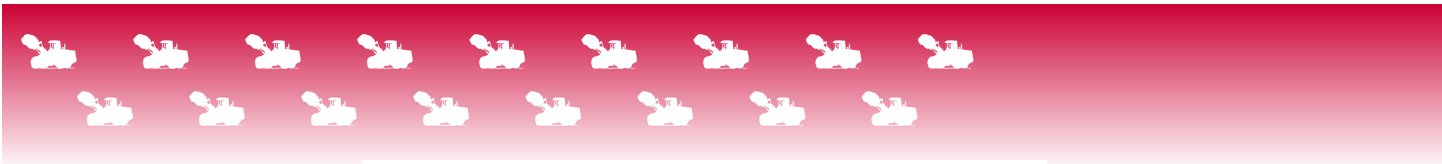
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Tradeswomen: A Winning Ticket!

Friday Itinerary:

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm **By Invitation Only**

- ⇒ Focus Group – 8 to 12 women in trades and/or trades training
- ⇒ Employer Roundtable – 12 employers, educators, and industry representatives

Findings and recommendations from these sessions will be compiled and included in the Women in Leadership Foundation’s research study and strategic plan.

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

- ⇒ Registration for Conference Participants

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

- ⇒ Wine & Cheese Reception with Welcome from Dignitaries and Special Guests

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm **Open to the General Public**

(No charge for this event but please register at 604.291.4023.)

- ⇒ Women in Trades Panel and Research report

Saturday Itinerary: Conference Delegates Only

9:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Welcome and Introductions
9:45 am – 10:15 am	Key note speaker
10:15 – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 – 11:15 am	First workshop
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Second workshop
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch: Speaker
1:45 – 2:45 pm	Third workshop
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Plenary. Recommendations
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Banquet
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Cabaret

Where: Simon Fraser University. The Friday event will be held at the Segal Business Centre, 500 Granville Street and Saturday at Harbour Centre campus in downtown Vancouver, 515 West Hastings Street.

Registration Fee: \$75 for tradeswomen. \$300 for others.

Workshops: The Saturday conference event will be on various issues of interest to tradeswomen including “Dressing for Safety and Success,” “Snappy Comebacks,” “Cultural Challenges,” “Alternatives to Grievance or Human Rights Complaints,” “The Business of Business,” and more.

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Registration:

Register on the SFU website www.sfu.ca/tradeswomen. or in person with Lisa Siew, Women’s Studies Department, SFU
Tel: 604.291.4023
Email: Lisa_Siew@sfu.ca



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The mission of the BCCA is to provide leadership and excellence in the representation of and service to British Columbia’s construction industry