

# Trade Perspectives

Volume 2, Issue 2

March 2019



## It takes a village...to empower each other.

Lifting each other up is a collective effort shared with our community of committed stakeholders.

From the financial support provided by government, individual and corporate donors, to our inextricable link to the industry partners who hire our graduates.

In return for your ongoing commitment, we promise to make our shared journey in 2019 one of purpose and prosperity. It has already proven to be one of incredible opportunity as we strengthen existing partnerships while expanding our ability to serve by forging new relationships. We appreciate that our organization has earned the opportunity to serve in a thought leadership capacity and see the upcoming year as a critical one for us to provide influence on a provincial and national stage.

We know that none of this would be possible without the trust that women place in all of us to be a part of their journey. Women like Kate Ross, featured in this newsletter, allow us to serve our mission. Her journey from exploring careers in the trades to being hired in her dream job at Stuart Olson is an inspirational one.

Thank you to our supporters who, by being a part of our village, help bring our vision to life and change the lives of women like Kate. We all thrive better in a culture where we work together to support each other.

*-Kathy Kimpton, President & CEO, Women Building Futures*



# GRADUATE SUCCESS STORY

*"I first met Kate during interview days at Women Building Futures, she had just finished her training and really stood out as an energetic, eager worker. She told us she was ultimately interested in getting into safety and at the time, we happened to be expanding our safety watch team. I knew right away she would be a great fit" shares Jay Coupland, Manager at Stuart Olson Inc. "Since joining us, Kate has grown to become an essential part of our team and is well on her way to becoming a Safety Advisor. She's doing awesome and we're really happy she's with us."*

In early 2018, Kate decided to take her future into her own hands and started a new journey and career path that would allow her challenge herself and reach her goals. She attended an information session in Fort McMurray First Nation hosted by Women Building Futures (WBF), an Edmonton-based training organization for women looking to enter the trades and driving industries.

At the time, WBF was visiting Kate's community to offer a 5-day Career Builder workshop that would help women understand the application process and skills required to apply for an upcoming training program and the career paths available after training.

After the 5-day Career Builder, Kate left feeling excited and was determined to apply for the Trans Mountain Pipeline Construction Labourer Readiness Program. After submitting her application, Kate received a call back for an interview and a few weeks later received her acceptance letter. Kate, along with 11 other women were selected for the 8-week training program.

In early March 2018, Kate entered her program with clear goals and an eagerness to learn. The Construction Labourer Readiness Program gave her the foundational knowledge and hard-skills to start her a career in the oil & gas industry. Kate always had her heart set on pursuing a role in safety, so when she completed her program, she was determined to find an employer who could help her fulfill that goal. At the end of the training program, WBF hosted a group of employers to interview the graduates of the program. This gave Kate the opportunity to speak with a few companies, hear about their work and see if there was a good fit. In the end, she was formally offered a safety watch position with Stuart Olson.



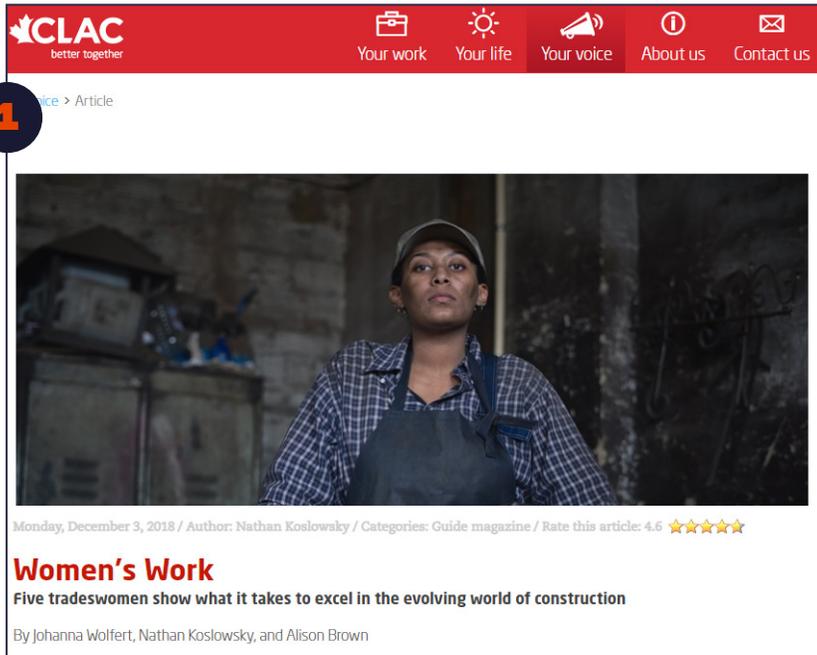
**KATE ROSS**  
WBF Graduate

**YOU GOT THIS!**

She completed her program April 28, 2018 and started her new position on May 7, 2018. Now in her new role as Safety Watch, Kate is responsible for making sure work is being done safely and addressing any hazards on the jobsite. This new path has helped her achieve her goal of building a career for herself, being able to buy a vehicle and have it fully paid off within a year.

At the end of training, WBF always asks their graduates: If they could say one thing to other women who are thinking about pursuing a career in the trades, what would it be? Kate's responded with, "Go for it! This will open so many doors for you and the opportunities are endless!"

# WBF IN THE NEWS



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1 Article



Monday, December 3, 2018 / Author: Nathan Koslowsky / Categories: Guide magazine / Rate this article: 4.6 ★★★★★

## Women's Work

Five tradeswomen show what it takes to excel in the evolving world of construction

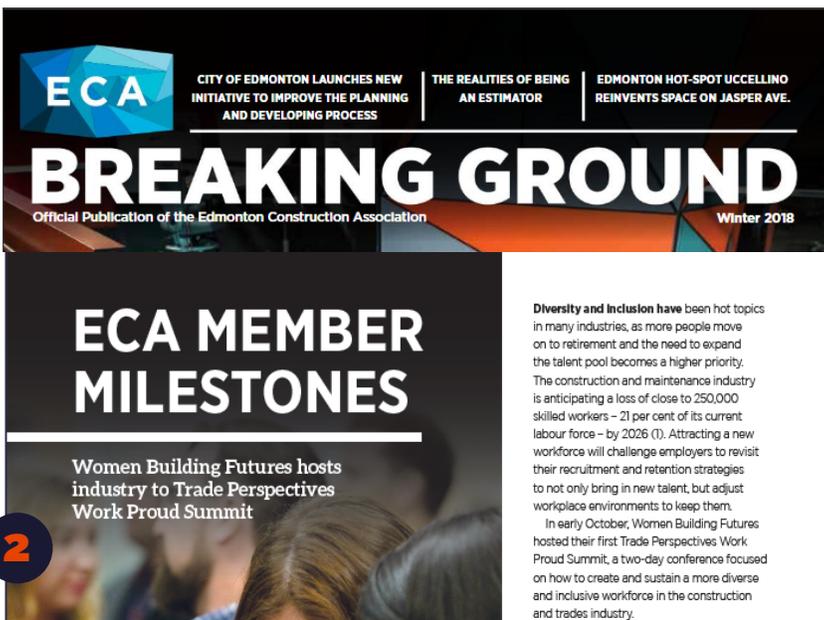
By Johanna Wolfert, Nathan Koslowsky, and Alison Brown

## WE ARE ALWAYS PROUD TO SHOWCASE THE IMPACT OUR WORK HAS IN COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY

Thank you to these writers for sharing our story.

1. Over the years, CLAC has been a great supporter of Women Building Futures. In December 2018, CLAC Guide Magazine featured a WBF Graduate in their article "Women's Work: Five tradeswomen show what it takes to excel in the evolving world of construction." [Read the full article here.](#)

2. ECA Member Milestones: Women Building Futures hosts industry to Trade Perspectives. Diversity and inclusion have been hot topics in many industries, as more people move on to retirement and the need to expand the talent pool becomes a higher priority. See Winter 2018, page 82. [Read the full article here.](#)



ECA

CITY OF EDMONTON LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPING PROCESS

THE REALITIES OF BEING AN ESTIMATOR

EDMONTON HOT-SPOT UCCELLINO REINVENTS SPACE ON JASPER AVE.

# BREAKING GROUND

Official Publication of the Edmonton Construction Association Winter 2018

## ECA MEMBER MILESTONES

Women Building Futures hosts industry to Trade Perspectives Work Proud Summit

Diversity and Inclusion have been hot topics in many industries, as more people move on to retirement and the need to expand the talent pool becomes a higher priority. The construction and maintenance industry is anticipating a loss of close to 250,000 skilled workers – 21 per cent of its current labour force – by 2026 (1). Attracting a new workforce will challenge employers to revisit their recruitment and retention strategies to not only bring in new talent, but adjust workplace environments to keep them. In early October, Women Building Futures hosted their first Trade Perspectives Work Proud Summit, a two-day conference focused on how to create and sustain a more diverse and inclusive workforce in the construction and trades industry.

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## What's Your Perspective?

Do you have any questions, comments or story ideas? We'd love to hear from you!

Send us an email to:

[editor@womenbuildingfutures.com](mailto:editor@womenbuildingfutures.com)



# YOU GOT THIS

**GET IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.  
YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE.**

## Upcoming Programs

### **Journeywoman Start**

This 17-week classroom and hands-on skills development training program exposes participants to six different trades and the construction industry in general. Participants will write the Level B Trades Entrance Exam while in the program.

**Applications open. Visit [womenbuildingfutures.com](https://womenbuildingfutures.com) for class start dates.**

### **Heavy Equipment Technician**

Our Heavy Equipment Technician program is your pathway to apprenticeship. This program offers a unique opportunity for women who are interested in becoming a heavy equipment technician. Heavy equipment technicians maintain, repair and overhaul heavy vehicles and industrial heavy equipment. Tuition for this program is paid for by industry. This 4-week classroom and hands-on program is designed to prepare students to become an entry level Heavy Equipment Technician in the construction and maintenance industry. Upon completion of this program, students will complete a four-year apprenticeship program with four WBF partner employers. Training takes place at the WBF Training Centre in Edmonton.

**Applications open. Visit [womenbuildingfutures.com](https://womenbuildingfutures.com) for class start dates.**

### **Professional Driver/Operator Programs**

#### **Driver & Operator Training**

This program is perfect for someone looking for a career in operating various types of equipment in construction and city maintenance. This six-week program provides students with the essential safety awareness and certification, workplace culture preparation, theory and hands-on training needed to support and prepare them to enter the operating industry. Prepares class 5 drivers to successfully obtain their Class 3 license. Drive equipment such as snow plows, wireline trucks and hydrovacs. Work in industries such as Oil & Gas, Construction and Hydrovac Services. Worksite tours, hands on skill building and guest speakers will round out the students' readiness for employment. Training takes place at the WBF Training Centre in Edmonton.

**Applications open. Visit [womenbuildingfutures.com](https://womenbuildingfutures.com) for more information.**

[See all upcoming programs](#)



# What's Your Perspective?

*Do you have any questions, comments or story ideas? We'd love to hear from you!*

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