

Trade Perspectives

January 2018

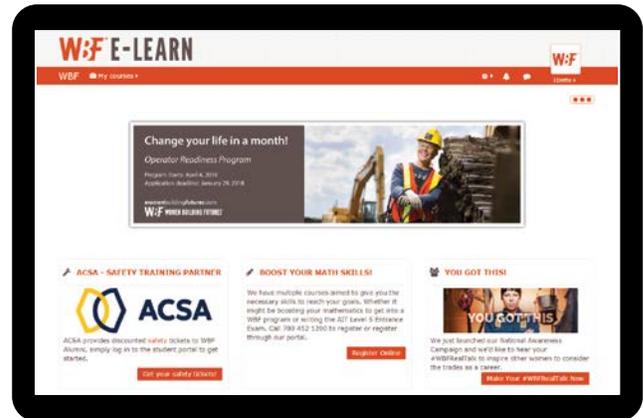
Expanding our training to reach any woman, anywhere

With WBF E-Learn, women now have the flexibility to learn wherever they are

Women Building Futures (WBF) doesn't settle into status quo. Over the past 20 years, we continue to evolve our services to align with what women and industry need. This spirit of continual advancement is most obvious in the ongoing addition of new programs to our training calendar.

The most recent evolution is moving our training beyond our classroom, inspiring women everywhere to see construction and maintenance as a first-choice career, and empowering them to successfully pursue it. In 2015, we began the program design process to take the training we deliver in-person and translate it into an online format. After two years, and the incredible effort of our staff and project partners, we delivered our first online module as part of the Suncor Heavy Equipment Operator Program in October of 2017 - an exciting milestone for WBF!

Our competency-based training utilizes online books, lessons, interactive tools, forums, essays, and multimedia activities, all led by a coach who supports our online students and monitors their learning.



We also deliver blended learning, which provides students with both in-person and online training as they progress through a program.

Moving from solely in-person training into a blended or fully online approach means that we needed to enable more on-demand support to help women along the way. In 2017, WBF also launched an online portal, where women have access to self-assessments, trades exploration and decision-making tools, program information, applications, and information on funding. With the portal in place, our staff now connect with women as they begin exploring different careers, and we provide the coaching, support, and inspiration they need, when they need it.

So far, we have 100 students accessing our online training from their PC, tablet, or smartphone and enjoying the benefit of training on their own schedule, accommodating work or family commitments.

And we're hearing from women around the world who are interested in accessing our online programming.

2018 will be the year that WBF becomes a global training provider!



OUT & ABOUT

Where we've been and where we're going

There are so many events that inspire us. Here are a few of our highlights...

Oil Sands Trade Show and Conference

Sept 12, 2017 – WBF's Director of Stakeholder Relations, Jacqueline Andersen, was asked to participate in a panel alongside representatives from Keyano College, Suncor, and the provincial government. The Fort McMurray region is an inspiring example of resilience and future-focus as the discussion was spent on topics such as hiring trends, skill demand forecasts, and alternative paths.

BuildForce 2nd National Construction & Maintenance Industry Strategy Summit

October 5, 2017 – WBF's President and CEO, Kathy Kimpton, attended this summit in Ottawa and participated in a panel of speakers discussing worker retention and how to create respectful and inclusive workplaces. What a great opportunity to share WBF's expertise on the national stage!

Introduction at the Legislature

December 6, 2017 - Kathy Kimpton and Jacqueline Andersen were introduced by our Edmonton Centre MLA David Shepherd. It was an honour and we appreciate the ongoing support received from the Government of Alberta.

Dream Big Book Launch

December 6, 2017 - We cheered on our alumnus Kathy Tuccaro as she launched her book *Dream Big*. Kathy graduated from our Heavy Equipment Operator program, and was hired to drive a haul truck in Alberta's oil sands. She's sharing her story about her journey and inspiring other women to do the same.

Edmonton's Economic Impact Luncheon

January 9, 2018 - WBF was well represented as 1,100 attendees came to hear about the city's economic outlook and how a global mindset will shape our resilient economy. WBF is excited to contribute to our local and regional economies.

Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association Stakeholder Event

January 25, 2018 - This globally attended conference showcases the diversification and investment in the heartland region, known for its hydrocarbon processing, and gives WBF the opportunity to meet industry experts, government officials, and industry partners.



COME FOR THE PARTY

STAY FOR THE GAME

WOMEN IN TRADES NIGHT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018 | 7PM | SCOTIABANK SADDLEDOME | CALGARY, AB

SPECIAL TICKET OFFER - UP TO 65% SAVINGS

\$22.50 WITH **\$5** PLUS GST
GOING BACK TO THE
WOMEN BUILDING
FUTURES STUDENT
AWARDS PROGRAM

PLUS! GET GREAT SEATING! Lower bowl seats are reserved for WBF. Only while quantities last.

Women Building Futures is proud to have been chosen to be the recipient of ticket sales for an upcoming Women in Trades night at the Calgary Roughnecks Lacrosse game on Saturday, February 10th!

WBF Student Awards are available to students enrolled in WBF programs and provides financial support and recognition of outstanding students.

Please share widely. Thank you for your support!

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

Join us as the Roughnecks
take on the
Colorado Mammoth!



vs.



For more information about WBF:
Phone: 780 452 1200
Web: WomenBuildingFutures.com

Orders will be processed and tickets will be emailed within 2 business days. For any questions: Nick Yates | 403-777-5321 | nyates@calgaryflames.com



Photo courtesy of Solar Energy Society of Alberta

WHAT'S NEW

Endless opportunity to evolve in the trades

Alumni acquire new skills for the growing solar industry in WBF's continuing education workshop

A career in the trades will progress and evolve, starting on the tools, then perhaps leading into safety or even becoming a business owner. It's hardly a career that stands still. With changing technology and workforce demands, trades workers will need to adapt to a new landscape.

To encourage our graduates to continue learning new skills, WBF held a continuing education workshop exclusively for our alumni. Delivered in partnership with Gridworks Energy, the weekend workshop gave 10 WBF alumni an introduction to basic solar principles and practices with hands-on training on solar photovoltaic systems. Inspiring the women to keep learning, and maybe even start their own solar business, made this workshop a big success!

"I plan to use the skills I learned in this workshop to either work in solar or start my own solar business."

WBF Alumni Workshop Participant

Learn more about one participant's journey in the electrical field in our Alumni Feature.





ALUMNI FEATURE

Women are succeeding in the trades every single day

One WBF alumni's journey into the electrical field



LORIEN WILSON

Electrical Apprentice
Pembina Pipeline Corporation
WBF's Electrical Basics #5

Lorien had always admired the trades, but couldn't imagine pursuing that line of work as a single mom with a full-time job. Then, in 2015 with the support of her family, she took a leap

and became a student in WBF's Electrical Basics class. That was when she discovered that the electrical field had unlimited opportunities for her to continually evolve her skills. "Even after you become a journeyman, there is never a time when you are not learning something new," Lorien says.

Lorien continued this natural desire to acquire new skills when she began working with Pembina and recognized the value of learning from her colleagues on the job.

"I am proud to be part of the team. They are always willing to answer my questions. They respect me as an apprentice and they know that I appreciate and respect them as my journeymen."

Evolving her skills continues to be a driver for Lorien as she builds her career in the electrical field. "I have comfort in knowing that I can continue my education and become a bigger asset to my industry." Lorien was invited to attend WBF's first continuing education workshop for alumni in 2017 where she learned the basics about solar energy and discovered yet another opportunity for applying her skills. "With the new strides in electrical advancement, the industry is changing and becoming more needed. We are a trade that is helping the environment with new technology."

Looking back on her journey to where she is today, Lorien knows it came from hard work and dedication.

"When my sons look at me now, they tell me how proud they are. It's sometimes hard to get through the day, but I remind myself that my generation is the one that is paving the way for women.... forever.

We are literally making history by pushing the boundaries of what women can do. That keeps me going."



Build the life you want. Build it in the trades.

Maybe the trades aren't an obvious choice. But they should be.

Women Building Futures offers training programs year-round! Please check out our upcoming programs on our website and learn more about all the opportunities that await.

womenbuildingfutures.com

Journeywoman Start Program

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. This is an Integrated Training Program with the **Province of Alberta**.

Professional Class 1 Driver Program

This 8-week, tuition paid skills development training program is offered in partnership with industry and a certified driver training school. This program prepares the learner for entry into the commercial transportation industry. Sponsored by **Caron Transportation Systems, Rosenau Transport Ltd., Trimac Transportation, Watt & Stewart** and **Westcan Bulk Transport**.

Professional Class 3 Driver Program

This four-week program prepares Class 5 drivers to successfully obtain their Class 3 licence. This will allow graduates to operate trucks with up to three axles and transport goods or carry loads.

Pathway to Apprenticeship: Heavy Equipment Technician

This new, fully-paid, apprenticeship-to-journeyman program provides students with the practical and academic training required to become a Heavy Equipment Technician with rotating annual work placements that will help them achieve their journeyman certificate.

[See all upcoming programs](#)

What's Your Perspective?

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

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womenbuildingfutures.com

