Workshop Descriptions:

**Keynote address: The Start-up, Care and Maintenance of your Women In Trades (WIT) Group**
9:00 am  Room 1400-1430

**Speaker: Valerie Overend**
Canada and BC have an active history of women in trades organizations and Valerie Overend is one of the pioneers of that history, with a long career in establishing and working with tradeswomen’s organizations. Based on a manual developed by Saskatchewan women for the Women in Trades, Technology and Blue Collar Work, National Network (WITTNN), she will show how to build a community so tradeswomen don’t feel so alone. Included will be lots of practical tips including how to honour each other’s strengths as well as differences, simple tools for getting a WIT group together, how to run a basic home repair clinic, and activities that work – for example, beer and pizza nights – vs. activities that don’t, like meetings!

**Biography:** Valerie Overend is a Journeyed Carpenter who has been actively promoting Industrial and Technical occupations for girls and women since 1990. She has developed and delivered Women in Trades and Technology (WITT) programs from coast to coast to coast in Canada and even traveled to Malawi (Africa) to train instructors. Valerie is Executive Director of SaskWITT and also works as a Provincial WITT Facilitator at Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science & Technology (SIAST). She is the equity representative for women on the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF), the body that oversees national apprenticeship standards, and the trades representataive on the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (CCWESTT). Valerie raised 2 sons on her own, both electricians, and is currently rebuilding her own home in Regina.