

Tradeswomen A WIN TICKET

APRIL 20-21 | RUTH WYNN WOODWARD CHAIR IN WOMEN'S STUDIES
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 07



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 representative 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.

Workshop 2 - 11:30am - 12:30pm

Storytelling, or, Making a Culture of Construction: Room 2200

Hilary Peach

Building a tugboat is like building a poem. Hilary Peach has been writing and performing for 20 years, twice as long as she has been welding in heavy construction. Join her for an introduction to form - how to make art out of your experience at work. See some examples of art by working women, and weave a short poem from an anecdotal experience.

Claiming the Territory – Cont'd. from Workshop 1. Room 2250

Valerie Overend and Judy Kujundzic

What would the ideal workplace look like? What needs to happen to keep women on the job? Are we unintentionally holding ourselves back? and other simmering questions.

Finding the job and keeping it: Room 1510

Judy Doll and Cheryl Anson

Join us for a brainstorming, interactive session that offers practical tips for a job search. We will have sample resume and cover letter templates to take home. Share personal experiences you've had while looking for work. Explore the value of support groups and networking.

Snappy Comebacks: Room 1505:

Heather Tomsic, Greater Vancouver Regional District

Sometimes stuck for a snappy comeback? Do workplace comments leave you speechless? Don't know whether to laugh or cry? Join tradeswoman Heather Tomsic in letting your sense of humour ease the way through the perils, pitfalls and positives of workplace communications. Bring your best one-liners and join in a collective hour of laughter and lightheartedness.

Workshop 1 - 10:15am-11:15am

Alternatives to Grievances and Human Rights complaints: Room 2200

Elaine Allison, author, *The Velvet Hammer*

How Women Work, Lead & Succeed: Celebrating the Differences!

Did you know women work differently than men - and that it is science? Learn a few unique methods so you can make the contribution you know you can. Find out what brains, hormones and cultural expectations have to do with it. Discover how you can tell someone to "Knock it Off" - nicely!

Claiming the Territory: Room 2250:

Valerie Overend and Judy Kujundzic (See "Speaker's Bios")

What would the ideal workplace look like? What needs to happen to keep women on the job? Are we unintentionally holding ourselves back? and other simmering questions.

Learning Styles and their Influence on How We Learn: Room 1510

Alice Macpherson, Kwantlen University-College

Since 1983, Howard Gardner's research has shown that there are at least eight ways of approaching "...solving problems and fashioning products" and that these eight intelligences are simple, elegant and powerful tools to understand and facilitate learning. This session will focus on strategies that will enable you to apply Gardner's Multiple Intelligences in ways that will increase your learning and that of others.

Dressing for Success and Safety: Room 1525

Betty-Ann Lee, Worksafe BC

Knowing what to wear, when, and finding the equipment that fits, is a vital part of staying safe on the job. Come see what's available in the world, from specially built women's boots to purple coveralls and women-sized tool belts. Find out what's being made where and by who.

What Red Seal? Navigating Through Apprenticeship. Room 1505

Judy Harris, Industrial Training Authority (ITA)

This workshop will provide practical information on how the industry training system works, and show participants how to navigate smoothly through the waters of apprenticeship registration and completion to trade certification. The presentation will touch on types of industry training programs and on trade-specific resources, with emphasis on supports for apprentices and managing your apprenticeship program. Time will be provided for questions, and for participant recommendations to take to the conference plenary.

Lunch & Keynote address: Transnational Tradeswomen

12:30_Room 1400-1430

Speaker - Vivian Price

Investigating current and historical roles of women in the construction industry worldwide, former construction worker Vivian Price discovers that women in many parts of Asia have been doing construction labor for centuries. But now, development and the resulting mechanization are pushing them out of the industry. The stories of women workers from Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, Indian, Pakistan, and Japan disturb the notion of "progress" that many people hold, demonstrating that modernization, education and technology don't always result in gender equality and the alleviation of poverty.

Biography: (Dr). Vivian Price started working in factories during the era of student organizing in the 1970's, and got into the trades as a maintenance and then a construction electrician through the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. She took up video while working in the lesbian community in the 1980's, then took classes in video when she returned to school in the 1990's. Her research focuses on issues of gender and labor, including her dissertation, which looked at the way gender, race, and community pressure interfaced with government policy. To survive graduate school, she produced "Hammering It Out," a film about one of her case studies of affirmative action. "Transnational Tradeswomen" was completed in 2006. Her new project is a documentary on the Bracero Program with co-director Gilbert Gonzalez. She is Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Workshop 3: 1:45pm - 2:45pm

The Business of Business: Room 2200

Deb McIsaac (The Powerline Group), Niki Trotter (HandyGals Home Service),
Jim Smyth (BCIT Venture Program)

Interested in starting your own business but don't know where to start? This workshop will feature two tradeswomen who have successfully done this and they will tell you how and why they got started and, more importantly, how they stay in business. You will also hear from a representative of the Venture Development Centre at BCIT about programs available to provide practical training for you in how to start and operate a successful business.

Life After the Ticket: What Could Come Next? Room 2250:

Michelle Laurie, President, IBEW258 (Hydro), Gwen Williams (City of Vancouver, Building Inspector), Anne St. Eloi (UA, Special Representative)
Listen to options for staying in the trade longer, or for shifting to related fields.

Men, Women and Tools: Room 1505:

Marcia Braundy, Carpenter

The DVD, *Men & Women and Tools*, is a play, based on a group interview with male & female tradesworkers, looking at male resistance to women in trades and technology. Come tackle some solutions.

Cultural Challenges: Room 1510:

Helen Boyce (Aboriginal Community Career and Employment Services Society - ACCESS)

Meg Herweier (BCIT Carpentry Instructor)

The things we can't change that can hold us back: race, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference....?

Plenary for Final Recommendations: Room 1400-1430.

All participants to brainstorm and prioritize the day's recommendations.

This will be the fruit of our day. Please come give your ideas and opinions.

Followed by a light supper and sharing of poems, stories, etc.