



# Women in Science and Engineering Atlantic Region Newsletter

Winter 2014 Issue 9

The NSERC Atlantic Chair's program for Women in Science and Engineering, WISEatlantic, aims to provide junior and senior high school girls access to role models active in the sciences and engineering fields through mentorships, webinars, science workshops and camps. We network with women from industry and academia, from science, engineering and technology disciplines at various stages in their careers.

## WISEatlantic Upcoming Events: Save the Date!

### Girls Get WISE Science Retreat – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

This all-day, all-girls Science Retreat will feature two hands-on sessions and a chance to meet female role models in STEM careers! Visit our website shortly to register. Registration opens February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 This event is open to girls in Grades 7-12.



*Building straw towers at our  
Science Retreat 2014*

### Atlantic Connections Conference - June 4<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Women in SETT from a cross-section of industry, academia, and government sectors will gather to share and learn from their experiences in the work place. Our guest speakers will share the latest ideas about what we can do to shift our systems to be more inclusive. You will be invited to set the agenda for a highly participatory process called open technology. Come with questions that you care about, and opportunities that you'd like to explore. Registration opens early March [www.AtlanticConnections.ca](http://www.AtlanticConnections.ca). This event will be held at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.



Atlantic Connections Conference

### Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camp - July 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Our week-long science summer camp gives girls in Grades 7 & 8 the chance to study zebrafish development, do experiments in chemistry and physics, explore engineering and information technology, and most of all, have fun! Keep checking our website for further details.

## In the Pipeline...

- ◆ **Women in SETT Leadership Series**— we are working on hosting two workshops in Spring 2015
- ◆ **Girls Get WISE Science Retreat** in Truro, March 2015
- ◆ WISEatlantic supports the newly-formed **NSERC Peer Mentoring Network— Physics**, a chance for female physics professors in Atlantic Canada to network.
- ◆ **Webinars for classrooms**—bring female role models in STEM careers into your classroom via a distance learning platform. Contact us for more details.

## Our Sponsors:



## WISEatlantic Past Events

### Archives of Women

Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal, along with three of the other NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering, took part in the WISE Legacy workshop at the University of Ottawa from September 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. The aim of this workshop was to discuss the creation of an Archive of Women Scientists & Engineers in Canada.



*NSERC CWSE's with representatives from Engineers Canada*

### Step-up: A Promotion Workshop for Female Faculty

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, thirty female faculty shared their expertise about the process from Associate to Full professor. Offering sessions on everything from "Managing your reputation" to "Negotiating workload". This workshop was funded by the NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering Network. Feedback from this workshop was extremely positive and the report from this workshop can be found on our website. Watch out for other workshops like this one across the country!



*Dr. Catherine Mavriplis presents at the Step-Up Workshop*

### The Mount welcomes incoming NSERC President

Dr. Mario Pinto, incoming President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), visited the Mount campus to learn more about WISEatlantic and their ongoing initiatives. They were joined by women from other institutions across the region who are involved with WISEatlantic. Also present from NSERC were Blair Dickerson, VP-External Relations & Communications, and Dr. Pierre Charest, VP-Grants and Scholarships. The Mount's President, Dr. Ramona Lumpkin, and VP, Dr. Elizabeth Church, were also in attendance.

### Girls Get WISE Science Retreat for Pathfinders & Rangers

WISEatlantic partnered with Girl Guides Nova Scotia to put on a Science Retreat at Cape Breton University on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-three girls participated from units all over Cape Breton and they had fun extracting DNA from fruit, racing balloon rockets, and meeting role models!

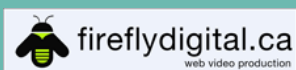


*Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal and three eager Pathfinders taking part in the Girls Get WISE Retreat at CBU*

### Female Leaders in Academia

Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal opened and facilitated a discussion with female faculty and graduate students as part of the inaugural meeting for Female Leaders in Academia at Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus, Truro on November 4<sup>th</sup>. This series is lead by Dr. Stewart-Clark.

THANK YOU



TECHSPLOATION

nscc



Girl Guides of Canada  
Guides du Canada



## Research News!

Phase two of our research study, “Career Choices and Influencers in STEM: an analysis in the Maritime Provinces” is well underway. In this phase we are targeting primarily grade 9 students in all Atlantic Provinces.

## News from Across the Region

### Nova Scotia:

- ◆ **First Lego League Regional Competition**– Acadia University will host the finals on Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- ◆ **GoEngGirl**– This annual event took place on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The event takes place at Dalhousie University and offers girls in grades 9-12 the opportunity to discover engineering as a potential career.
- ◆ **Great news!** Digital Nova Scotia’s board is now 46% women!
- ◆ **Check it out!** Women in Engineering, Nova Scotia now have their own website; <http://www.engineerscanada.ca/women-in-engineering>

### Newfoundland:

- ◆ **WISE NL**– Aboriginal Youth Conference was held in Corner Brook Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>. Students from across the province were introduced to education and career opportunities in science and engineering that are available to them, close to home and in their communities.

### New Brunswick:

- ◆ **APEG-NB** has launched a committee on Diversity and Inclusion.

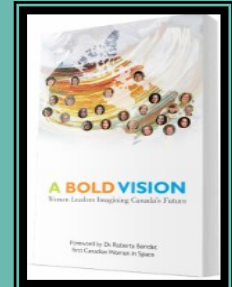
### Prince Edward Island:

- ◆ Another **Girls Get WISE Science Retreat** is planned for May 2014 in PEI, this will be the second retreat on the island.

## Across the Country:

- ◆ **WWEST**– Dr. Elizabeth Croft of UBC was named one of Canada’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women. Congratulations Dr. Croft!
- ◆ **CWSE-Ontario** - To commemorate and empower women in engineering, leaders were asked to pledge how they will support women in engineering for the next 25 years. View the pledges #impact25 on the CWSE-ON twitter page (@CWSE\_ON).
- ◆ **WinSETT Centre** – A new workshop, “Navigating the Politics of the Workplace”, is now available.

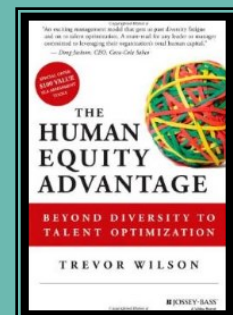
## WISEatlantic Chair Reading Picks!



An anthology created by 23 women visionaries created *Bold Vision* from the conference held in PEI



The Let's Talk Science Spotlight on Science Learning Report.  
[www.letstalkscience.ca](http://www.letstalkscience.ca)



The Human Equity Advantage  
by Trevor Wilson

for your ongoing support...

For more reading recommendations look at our past versions of our newsletter at [www.WISEatlanticnewsletters.asp](http://www.WISEatlanticnewsletters.asp)

## WISEatlantic Supports FLL Teams

For the last few years, WISEatlantic has supported First Lego League teams in which at least 50% of the members are girls. This year we sponsored three teams. Two of the teams, Mount Wildstyle and the Shadowvolts both made it through to the FLL Regional Competition at Acadia University this February. Congratulations to both of these teams! Looking to get sponsorship for the 2015/2016 year? Please contact us for details!



*The Mount Wildstyle team with their Core values Trophy!*

The program of activities for the NSERC Atlantic Chair for Women in Science and Engineering includes:

- Establishing a network for junior and senior high school girls to meet female role models working in science and engineering fields.
- Developing and launching webinars across Atlantic Canada for teachers, school guidance counselors and students to broaden their knowledge of careers in science and engineering.
- Holding community seminars for parents, teachers and students.
- Conducting surveys to assess how girls perceive careers in science and engineering and how they make their career decisions.
- Launching science camps and retreats for girls.
- Developing role model videos as a resource for students, parents, and teachers.

## Role Model Videos

The NSERC/Pratt & Whitney Chair for Women in Science and Engineering-Ontario Region have just completed shooting three role model videos in Ottawa for the Techsploration Women in Action Video Series and we have filmed a new video in Halifax. The videos will feature women in the fields of Technology, Entrepreneurship, Geophysics, Space Engineering & Embryology. The videos will be launched in early 2015, stay tuned!

**New:** In early December, we added transcripts for each video to our video page; [www.WISEatlantic.ca/videos.asp](http://www.WISEatlantic.ca/videos.asp).

## WISEatlantic.ca Resources

Resources for parents, students, teachers and role models including:

- \* Links to science and math classroom activities;
- \* Videos of STEM related careers;
- \* Online Webinars linking STEM role models directly to classrooms;
- \* Information about STEM camps and retreats across Atlantic Canada;
- \* Documents on gender equity in STEM fields in Canada.

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## Feedback

We value your comments on our activities. Please contact us with your feedback and suggestions on how we can help you **empower women and inspire girls!**

**International  
Women's Day is on  
March 8<sup>th</sup> in 2015!**