

## Women's Action Committee

Lindsay Melvin, Chair  
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The Women's Action Committee (WAC) is currently developing new horizons. During the 2008/09 year, we hosted two professional development events, and represented APEGM at Engineers Canada's Women in Engineering Advisory Group and on the CCWESTT Executive (Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology). In addition, various members of WAC committed to a new challenge: the organization of the national CCWESTT 2010 Conference.

### *October Professional Development Event with IEEE Women in Engineering*

In conjunction with the Women in Engineering Chapter of IEEE, WAC hosted "An Ocean of Change: Navigating your way through the currents of life using principles of effectiveness" on the evening of October 2, 2008. Mr. Richard Timlick of Millennial Leadership Consulting provided training and insight into Stephen Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

### *April Panel Discussion*

On April 23, 2009, WAC presented: "Growth & Development in One's Career – Reaching Your Dream Job!" The panel discussion was facilitated by Dr. Sandra Ingram from the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba and featured:

Andrew Isaacs, P.Eng., Transmission Studies Engineer, Electranix Corporation,  
Dawn Nedohin-Macek, P.Eng., Process Control Systems Engineer, Manitoba  
Hydro, and  
Trish Stadnyk, Ph.D., E.I.T., m.CSCE, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering,  
University of Manitoba.

Thank you to the facilitator, panellists and participants who made this event a success. The panel discussion provided a unique opportunity to share experiences, provide encouragement and network.

### *Engineers Canada Women in Engineering Advisory Group (WIEAG)*

The Women in Engineering Advisory Group (WIEAG) of Engineers Canada exists to facilitate Engineers Canada in supporting its policy on Women in Engineering. WIEAG meets annually, and includes one representative from each of the constituent members, as well as representatives from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council Canada Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering and the National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science. The purpose of WIEAG in the past has been to establish a forum for networking and sharing best practices relating to Women in Engineering issues. In 2008, WIEAG began developing an action plan to move the goals of the group from discussion to action. Of particular concern are the statistics concerning female enrolment in engineering education programs. The percentage of

women entering engineering was as high as 20% in the early 2000's but has declined to approximately 17% in recent years.

In the fall of 2008, Engineers Canada established a Women in Engineering Task Force to develop specific actions to improve women's representation in engineering. As a result, six strategies for improving the recruitment and retention of women in engineering were recommended and approved by the Engineers Canada Board in May, 2009.

### *CCWESTT 2010*

In the fall of 2008, volunteers from APEGM and a number of Manitoba based organizations commenced planning the 13<sup>th</sup> national, biannual conference of the CCWESTT. The conference, "Leading the Way: Empowering Women, Building Communities" will be held May 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at The Fairmont Hotel. This conference has never before been held in Manitoba! The conference includes:

- An opening reception on the evening of Thursday, May 13th, 2010
- Two full days of conference program on Friday, May 14th and Saturday, May 15th, 2010
- An elegant closing banquet on the evening of Saturday, May 15th, 2010
- Optional post conference activities on Sunday, May 16th, 2010

Additional information can be found at the conference's website: [www.ccwestt2010.ca](http://www.ccwestt2010.ca).

### *Thank You*

Thank you to APEGM staff, volunteers, event supporters, and like minded groups, who help APEGM WAC develop and achieve long term goals for APEGM. A special thank you to APEGM for its support and contributions to CCWESTT 2010 as a Platinum sponsor.