



WORKSHOP:

Creating the Memories and Celebrating the Legacy of the Bold and the Brave: Building the Archives of Women Scientists and Engineers in Canada

September 11 and 12, 2014

University of Ottawa, Faculty of Social Sciences, Room 4006

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: Professor Claire Deschênes, Faculty of Engineering, Université Laval, former NSERC/Alcan Chair for Women in Science and Engineering, Québec, and Director of the INWES Education and Research Institute (ERI); Monique Frize, Distinguished Research Professor (Retired) Faculty of Engineering, Carleton University and Professor Emerita, University of Ottawa, former NSERC/Nortel Chair for Women in Science and Engineering, Ontario, and President, ERI; Professor Ruby Heap, Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Associate Vice-President, Research, University of Ottawa and Director of Research, ERI; Professor Catherine Mavriplis, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ottawa and NSERC/Pratt Whiney Chair for Women in Science and Engineering, Ontario.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: The history of women scientists and engineers in Canada is still in its infancy. This can be largely attributed to their invisibility in traditional and established archives, which collected male records and tended to privilege the life and work of men; but another major obstacle has been these professional women's inclination to underestimate their own accomplishments, with the result that most did not seek to preserve their papers, and neither did their family, friends and colleagues. At a time when the call for more women in science and engineering careers resonates strongly within governmental, economic and academic circles, and when there is a strong consensus regarding the benefits of gender equity and increased diversity in these fields, there is a pressing need to provide current and future Canadian women scientists and engineers with an accurate and inspiring understanding of their past, to learn about the lives and accomplishments of those "who came before them".

OVERALL GOAL: Through the creation of an Archives of Women Scientists and Engineers in Canada, we aim to build the collective and individual memories of women scientists and engineers in Canada. Working together to recover, research and write their history will also help achieve the following objectives:

- Pay full tribute to their accomplishments and their contribution to women's history, to the history of science and engineering and to Canadian history

- Provide critical historical insights into the current status and role of women scientists and engineers

- Help establish important connections with gendered practices in the past and present day challenges and policy issues

- Develop a sense of pride in the achievements of women scientists and engineers

- Provide girls and women with inspiring role models that could lead them to pursue careers in science and engineering

HOW TO GET STARTED: A two-day workshop, to be held at the University of Ottawa on September 11-12 2014. Women scientists and engineers will have the opportunity to reflect and exchange on the collection, preservation, development and sharing of their records and those of their colleagues with scholars and specialists working in the field and with policy makers concerned about the recruitment and retention of women in science and engineering. The format will include panel presentations, testimonies by women scientists and engineers involved in record preservation and dissemination, and group discussions on the various issues related to record preservation and development. Participants will also consider how retrieving the history of women scientists and engineers in Canada could inform current policy making. The workshop will end with a plenary leading to the adoption of a strategic plan to start building an Archives of Woman Scientists and Engineers in Canada.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

September 11th

- 8:30-9:00 Breakfast and registration
- 9:00-9:30 Opening Remarks: Organizing Committee
Monique Frize, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Engineering, Carleton University,
University of Ottawa, President, International Network of Women Engineers and
Scientists –Education and Research Institute (INWES-ERI)
A Personal Experience in Collecting and Donating Archival Material
- 9:30-10:45 **Panel: Why and How? First Steps in Building the Largely Untold Story of Women
Scientists and Engineers in Canada.**
Ruby Heap, Department of History, University of Ottawa
*The Archives of Women Scientists and Engineers in Canada: An Essential Tool to
Inform and Shape Policy*
Lucie Desjardins, University of Ottawa Archives
To Archive or Not to Archive?
David Pantalone, Curator, Canadian Museum of Science and Technology
*To Preserve, Research, and Exhibit: The Canada Science and Technology
Museum*
Penny Park, Executive Director, Science Media Centre of Canada
Canadian Women Scientists & Engineers Exposed
- 10:45 -11:00 Health Break
- 11:00-12:00 ***What Archives Do We Want to Build?: Inspiring Models***
Guest speakers:
Troy Eller, Archivist, Society of Women Engineers Archives, Wayne State
University, Detroit, Michigan
*Petticoats and slide rules in the age of jeans and iPads: Exploring the potential
for archives of women in STEM in the 21st Century*

Lesley Hall, A Representative from the UK's Women in Science Research Network, (WISRNet)

Recovering a Hidden History: The Occluded Record of Women in Science

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Guest Speaker:

Alison Prentice, Professor Emeritus, OISE/University of Toronto: *Searching for Women in Canadian Physics: A Personal Journey*

1:00-2:00 **Panel:** *Telling your Story and Sharing your Knowledge: The Potential of New Technologies*

Leslie Weir, University of Ottawa Chief Librarian

The Role of 21st Century Archives and Libraries in Preserving the Legacy of Those Who Have Shaped or Will Shape our World.

Eduardo Rodriguez, Adjunct Professor, Telfer School, University of Ottawa
Discovering Knowledge from our Social Media

Roger Gillis, Librarian and Archivist, Mount Saint Vincent University
Dealing with the Digital Deluge: Challenges and Opportunities for Preserving the Records of Canadian Women Scientists and Engineers

Rena Bivens, Banting Fellow, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University

Is Social Media Gender-Neutral? The Intersection of Software Design and Knowledge Sharing

2:00-3:30 **Getting Started: Working Groups**

Facilitator: **Mary Cavanagh**, School of Information Studies, University of Ottawa
Personal record preservation and digital management

Facilitator: **Ingrid Birker**, Redpath Museum, McGill University
Creating unwritten records: oral history

Facilitator: **Penny Park**, Science Media Centre of Canada Facilitator
Building your support network: How to engage scientists and engineers, scholars, archivists, science writers, activists, etc.

Facilitator (TBD): *Sharing Information and Strategies*

Facilitator: **Connie Backhouse**, Distinguished University Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa

Securing funding and Ensuring Sustainability

- 3:30-3:45 Health Break
- 4:00- 5:00 Tour of the University of Ottawa Library (focus on digitization of material) and of the Canadian Women's Movement Archives
- 6:00-9:00 Reception and Dinner at Novotel: Welcome from the NSERC Regional Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering; Presentation of our Sponsors

September 12th

- 8:30-9:00 Breakfast and networking
- 9:00-10:00 ***Developing an action plan to build the Archives of Women in Science and Engineering in Canada***
Working Group Reports presented by NSERC Chairs and their students
- 10:15-11:30 Plenary: *Synthesis and identification of key steps*
Chair: **Claire Deschênes**, Faculty of Engineering, Université Laval
- 11:30 -12:00 Closure of workshop