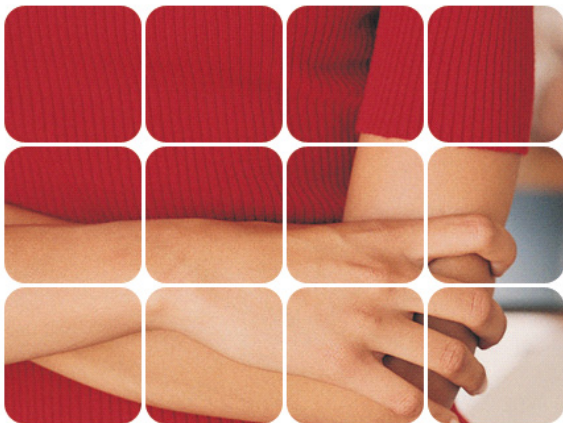


The CATA Women in Technology Forum (CATA WIT) is a national community network supporting women in Canada's advanced technology sectors.

With the generous support of the **Status of Women Canada Partnership Fund**, the **CATA Women in Technology (WIT) Forum** is launching a national project designed to help women succeed in Canada's technology industries.

The **CATA WIT** project will be a focal point for women across Canada entering or working to advance in fields including ICT (Information and Communications Technology), engineering, computer programming and other technology-dependant fields such as defence, aerospace and biotechnology.

**CATAWIT** forum  
women in technology



### Project goals and outcomes:

- Help break down barriers facing women looking to move into senior positions within tech companies or looking to start technology companies from the ground up
  - Facilitate systemic change in technology companies to implement strategies and programs to attract and help women advance internally
  - Hold professional development and mentorship workshops across Canada focused on improving women's workplace leadership skills
- Identify leading practices for recruiting and retaining women in technology companies
  - Develop tools to help companies align their policies and practices to support and promote the participation of women
  - Provide best practices with respect to growth-oriented women-owned firms

**FACT:** Today, women represent 47 percent of the overall Canadian workforce, but less than 30 percent of all ICT workers—and an even smaller percentage of ICT managers.

At the same time, women make up less than 20 percent of engineering and computer science students, at a time when overall enrolment in related undergraduate programs has dropped by 70 percent.

Visit [www.catawit.ca](http://www.catawit.ca) to become a member today

## Project activities will include:

### Promising Practices to Recruit and Retain WIT

- A study of best practices from technology companies who have successfully addressed gender-related career barriers including guidelines and tools for other businesses.
- A pilot project designed to introduce and assess the impact of the guidelines in real-world working situations.

### Professional Development and Training

- CATA WIT will host cross-country leadership training sessions to help women advance their careers and connect to mentors.

### Case Studies - about leveraging innovation from enterprising women in advanced technology

- A series of case studies that will profile high-growth, majority women-owned firms and explore their strategies for success.

### "Bringing IT On" Website

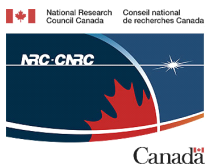
- This high impact social networking destination site is designed to attract young women to careers in advanced technology and bio-tech.

For more information, visit [www.catawit.ca](http://www.catawit.ca)

## *Investing in Women Pays Off*

- Government involvement will help promote women in technology fields, creating new opportunities for advancement and entrepreneurship.
- The SWC and CATA WIT project will provide tried-and-true gender initiatives for the workplace.
- Resulting advancement of women in leadership roles will help companies improve corporate organizational excellence and financial performance.
- Recruitment and retention of women provides companies with a competitive advantage.

## National Partners



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