



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN ENGINEERING DAY @ GS #INWED17

Today, Friday June 23, marks the annual **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN ENGINEERING DAY**. A day focused on drawing attention to the remarkable careers of women in engineering and celebrating their outstanding achievements in our industry. For Glotman•Simpson, we are thrilled to be a part of this special occasion in the hopes of encouraging more women into STEM careers and increasing diversity and inclusion in our industry. This year's **#INWED17** subtheme, **#MenAsAllies**, points to a number of stories recognizing the men who have shown true leadership in helping women overcome adversity in our industry, and encourages men to stand out as professional mentors and supporters of female engineers.

In honour of **#INWED17**, our incredible GS women engineers are sharing their personal stories in hopes of changing the perception that engineering is a male profession, and encouraging more women to enter our exciting industry!



## #ShesAnEngineer



"My path to the engineering profession is like that of many engineers. I enjoyed math and sciences throughout school and, without fully understanding what engineering encompassed, decided to enroll in civil engineering with the hope of using my technical skills to design something tangible. I eventually chose to pursue a career in Structural Engineering, and haven't looked back since! Structural engineering is a very rewarding career. At Glotman•Simpson, many of the buildings we design are reshaping the Vancouver skyline. The work is technically challenging, but also uses my creativity and communication skills. I am constantly learning new things, either from courses or from my peers, and know that this career will continue to present me with exciting new challenges. While I truly enjoy my work, I am often reminded that I am an anomaly as a female engineer when people are (a little too) shocked to find out what I do for work. When I first started at Glotman•Simpson, an architect from another firm asked me to page one of the senior engineers. As the only female in the room, he had assumed that I was the receptionist! While I considered this to be a harmless mistake, I was later approached by one of the partners at our company, who pointed out that that architect's assumption was inappropriate and insisted that it was not okay. It was then that I knew I would not only be accepted as a female engineer at Glotman•Simpson, but I would have mentors who would advocate for me. I'm hopeful that with both men and women speaking up for females in engineering, all future engineers will be able to enjoy this magnificent profession free of any gender bias."

**JESSICA CONNAGHAN**  
ENGINEER, GLOTMAN•SIMPSON

"I couldn't be happier with my decision to be an engineer. I've found my career in structural engineering to be fun and rewarding. Structural engineering is not just punching numbers all day, as many people expect. While math is a component of my job, it also requires strong communication skills, working with a diverse team, and being creative! It is a very satisfying career, as we work on so many architecturally stunning and structurally challenging designs, where at the end of each project, there is a physical product, the building, that you helped to make a reality. The biggest challenge I've faced in engineering is the lack of female role models in my industry. When I didn't see someone similar to myself acting as a partner or associate of a structural engineering firm, it was initially hard to imagine myself achieving these roles. Fortunately, the partners at Glotman•Simpson helped me to see my potential. They have been my greatest allies, as they value my opinions, and offer their support and guidance to help me succeed in my career. They help me set career goals, encourage me to take courses to expand my technical knowledge, and have referred me to workshops held specifically for women to develop my presentation and communication skills. I am happy to be at a company that values diversity in engineering, and appreciates the qualities that women can bring to the workplace."

**KELSIE PRIEST**  
ENGINEER, GLOTMAN•SIMPSON

"Growing up I always excelled at math and physics. I considered many different career paths, but I finally settled on engineering as a result of some excellent advice from my high school guidance counselor. Initially I had been reluctant because I had the impression that engineering was lacking the creativity and collaboration I was striving for in my future career. However, as I continued to pursue engineering I was delighted to find that group work and innovation are both significant aspects of the profession. Engineering has provided a perfect balance of practical thinking and creative problem solving in both my academic and professional careers so far. While considering possible undergraduate degrees, I was lucky to not know that engineering was a male dominated field. Neither of my parents, or any family friends ever mentioned it. To many people, that can be one of the first things they think of when asked to describe engineering. Being encouraged to pursue any field I desired, and not to include my gender as part of that decision was integral to my success. I hope that we all continue to ensure more young women and men around the world grow up pursuing their dreams and to not be defined by their gender."

**SOPHIE WARWICK**  
ENGINEER, GLOTMAN•SIMPSON



"We constantly strive to provide everyone on our team with the technical tools, training and mentorship with equal opportunity to succeed regardless of gender. We fully support gender equality through our recruitment practices, hiring, training and development of female talent. Our own staff and many colleagues have shown that women are successful in the engineering field and we hope that more women will pursue a career in engineering. We believe that gender diversity is a critical theme in today's workplace and can only benefit our industry as a whole by attracting the best creative minds and driven individuals. We look to women to enhance and broaden the level of talent that will be required, particularly with the maturing demographic in the engineering field and the future needs in the industry. Trust me, we NEED you!!"

**MEL O'KEEFE**  
PRINCIPAL, GLOTMAN•SIMPSON