



# Women's Diverse Voices in STEM

A CMBES Webinar series special in March 2024

Sponsored by WiMBE IFMBE

March 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 marks International Women's Day, a chance to celebrate women's rights and advancement in STEM. CMBES is having a series of webinar during the whole month of March to highlight the diversity of women's voices in STEM. Join us as we celebrate their unique perspective from across Canada!

**1st WEBINAR: March 5th 2024**

Time: 12h00-13h00



**Speaker:** Jessica Vandenberghe, P.Eng., FEC, FGC (Hon.) is a member of the Dene Thá First Nation, a sixties scoop survivor and raised in an inclusive German farming family in northern Alberta. Her exceptional career is based on two engineering degrees from the University of Alberta. She has worked in the oil sands, mining, regulatory, infrastructure, consulting industries and academia. She is the Assistant Dean, Community and Culture with the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Victoria and the owner of Guiding Star Consulting. She is a mother of two and at the intersection of two equity deserving groups in the Engineering Profession, which drives her passion for equity, diversity and inclusion along with Truth and Reconciliation. She believes that we can walk together to heal, build strong relationships, teach ethical and respectful behaviour, and be changemakers to create progressive and inclusive legislation, communities, and organizations.



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**Title: Appreciating the importance of Land / Territorial Acknowledgements and how to create one that is meaningful to everyone**

**Summary:** As Canadians and newcomers open their ears and hearts to the Truth of the oppressive history and present of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit, we can begin to take steps towards answering the Calls to Action. One way is to create and deliver meaningful land or territorial acknowledgements, spending time in thoughtful contemplation of whose hearts and footsteps have crossed the lands we work, live, and play on and who has been stewards of Land Spirit and Mother Earth. This session will touch upon the Truth, provide insight into a few Indigenous teachings, and will walk through aspects of how to create Land / Territorial acknowledgements, including several unique examples for inspiration.

[Link to register](#)

**Linkedin Profile:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-vandenberghe-p-eng-alberta/>

**2nd WEBINAR: March 19th 2024**

**Time: 12h00-13h00**



**Speaker:** Ala Hussain is a Professional Engineer with a Project Management Professional (PMP) designation, and has over a decade of leadership experience in Engineering, Construction, and Operations. She has successfully executed multi-million dollar projects within the natural gas, renewable energy, and battery recycling industries. She studied Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto, and embarked on a journey in project management, with a specialty in construction management and project execution strategies. She currently works as a Senior Manager at Li-Cycle Corp, where she is leading the build of the first hydrometallurgical facility in North America, and also the first of its kind for the company.

**Title: Breaking Boundaries: Triumphant as a Female Engineer in Work and Home**

**Summary:** This webinar explores the multifaceted challenges faced by female engineers in navigating both professional and personal spheres. Despite advancements in gender equality, persistent barriers



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hinder progress in traditionally male-dominated fields. Ala has over 10 years of experience in the oil & gas and manufacturing industries, primarily in project and construction management. Being the only woman on site, and the primary leader in these roles, she has encountered workplace bias, stereotype threat, and work-life balance struggles. She will dive into strategies women can employ to overcome these barriers and what male employees can do to advocate and support organizational change.

Let's get into an uncomfortable but important conversation about gender diversity in engineering and help foster inclusivity and empowerment in both work and home environments.

[Link to register](#)

Linkedin Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ala-hussain/>

3rd WEBINAR: March 26<sup>th</sup> 2024

Time: 12h00-13h00



**Speaker:** Nicole Marsh, Deaf and hard of hearing Biomedical Engineering Technologist at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), Ottawa, Canada

**Title:** Accessibility in Engineering

**Summary:** Join Nicole as she explains, first hand, how she has navigated (and succeeded) as a biomedical engineering technologist while being hearing impaired. She will discuss the challenges and the opportunities for improvement within a highly technical environment

[Link to register](#)

Linked Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/marshnicole/>

**Cost:** Free for both CMBES members and non-members, although you will need to create a free CMBES account if you don't already have one to register.

[Register Now!](#)