

HISTORY OF WOMEN IN MINING

BC &
beyond

Women
IN
Mining
BRITISH COLUMBIA

EARLY ROOTS

1800'S

Written & photographic records demonstrating women working in the coal industry in England & Wales and in the California, Alaska, Yukon & BC gold rushes

WAMIC
TORONTO
FORMED

1921

Edith Tyrrell forms Women's Association of the Mining Industry in Canada - Toronto

FIRST FEMALE
PRESIDENT OF
THE PDAC

1944

Viola MacMillan becomes the first female president of the Prospectors and Developers Association - a position she held for two decades

NORTHERN
MINER BEGINS
COVERAGE ON
WOMEN IN THE
INDUSTRY

1969

The Northern Miner found women in the mining industry rare enough to be newsworthy and began assigning stories to Nean Allman, the newspaper's first female reporter and first geologist on staff.

GAC FORMS
STATUS OF
WOMEN
GEOSCIENTISTS
COMMITTEE

1970'S

Ward Neale, then President of the Geological Association of Canada, noted that "out of a GAC membership of 2000, there were only three dozen female members. WIM BC's very own Barbara Caelles assumed the role of chair of the GAC SWG in 1976

ASSOCIATION
OF WOMEN IN
GEOSCIENCES IS
FORMED IN
VANCOUVER

1990'S

In 1991 Anne Thompson forms the Vancouver chapter and in 1993 AWG incorporates as Canadian Association for Women Geoscientists

WIMN FORMED

2002

Women in Mining Network (WIMN) formed - Barbara Caelles and Diane Gregory brought together a group of women for informal coffee meetings. 20 people attend the first meeting

WIMN GAINS
TRACTION

2003

WIMN membership swells to 100

INCEPTION OF
WIMV

2008

WIMN becomes Women in Mining Vancouver (WIMV) - Barbara Caelles, Yvonne deBoer, Claire Thomson, Sahar Pakzad and Sefika Lesnikov formed the core group. WIMV hosts first cocktail reception during Mining Week

WIM GOES NATIONAL

2009

WIMV begins participation at AME Roundup Conference

WIM Canada formed

WIMV launches Lunch & Learn program

WIMV ESTABLISHES ONLINE PRESENCE

2010

WIMV website is launched

WIM Northern BC established

NEW BC CHAPTER

2012

Elk Valley WIM established

NEW BC CHAPTER

2013

WIM South Central established

WIMBC EXCEEDS 1000 MEMBERS

2014

WIM Vancouver becomes WIM British Columbia (WIM BC)

WIMBC Hosts Women in STEM Summer Social with BC Women in Energy Network (BCWEN)

WIMBC membership exceeded 1,000 members

WIMBC FORMALIZES STRUCTURE

2015

WIMBC transitions to a non-profit organization and appoints a board of directors

WIMBC EXPANDS MEMBER OFFERING

2016

WIMBC introduces evening networking events, charity initiatives and branching out to partner with other mining affiliated organisations

INCEPTION OF WIMBC AWARDS

2018

WIMBC creates the Quartz Award for our outstanding volunteers and the Aurora Award to honour dynamic women in mining who inspire others through thoughtful leadership and by creating connections

WIMBC EXPANDS AWARD PROGRAM

2019

WIMBC introduces the Inclusion & Diversity Award and the Rising Star Award in honour of the late Julia Lane

WIMBC ENHANCES MEMBER OFFERING

2021

WIMBC launches the pulse newsletter, a Member Spotlight series, Career Connect and begins exploring of a formal mentorship program



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